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'Labour's coming home' speech promises a five-year covenant with the British people

Blair pledges new age of achievement

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday offered Britain a five-year contract under which he would lead it into a new age of achievement and end "17 years of Tory hurt".

In an inspirational address to his party conference, Mr Blair urged voters to "come home to Labour" and made ten vows for his first term of government. This was his covenant with the people, he said. "Judge me upon it. The buck stops with me."

Although the pledges were largely a reaffirmation of existing Labour policies and aspirations on education, health, employment, government spending, devolution and Europe, Mr Blair was trying to remove any doubts over whether Labour would really change people's lives.

It was a rapturously acclaimed, skilfully delivered speech designed to ready his party for power. "The glory days of Britain are not over. But the Tory days are." He declared "Labour's coming home" several times and appealed directly to former Tory voters and potential defectors from other parties. "I don't care where you are coming from. It's where your country is going that matters. If you believe in what I believe in, join the team. Labour has come home to you; so come home to us. Labour's coming home."

Mr Blair's address contained a handful of new proposals, including a promise to take Lottery cash away from cultural events and into schools. He also said that Labour would introduce three-week summer programmes for children with reading problems and a low-cost deal to give schools computer software and set up a "national grid for learning".

But his overall message was that Labour was a modern party that should take Britain into the next century. When

THE TEN VOWS

- More spending on education
- Less spending on welfare
- More spending on patients, less on NHS bureaucracy
- Cut long-term unemployment, halve youth unemployment
- Halve the time it takes young offenders to come to court
- Contain government borrowing and inflation
- Keep tax promises
- Smaller primary school classes, higher standards in all schools
- Devolution for Scotland, Wales and English regions
- New, constructive relationship with Europe

the election came, there would be a thousand days until the millennium: "1,000 days to prepare for 1,000 years," he said over and over again.

The success of the speech was underlined by the reaction of union leaders who have recently voiced fears of being sidelined. And in the euphoria it appeared that Mr Blair had avoided a defeat over pensions today after John Prescott and Gordon Brown worked out a deal with the unions.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, described Mr Blair's address as an uplifting speech that would reach out to everyone. Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "The message that Labour is coming home is very powerful and it stresses that we are now ready for government."

Three weeks after attacking Mr Blair at the TUC conference, Lew Adams, general secretary of Aslef, said: "It was the speech of a prime minister, a political tour de force in

which Tony crucially managed to weld together his vision of future progress with many of the values so important to the party's past."

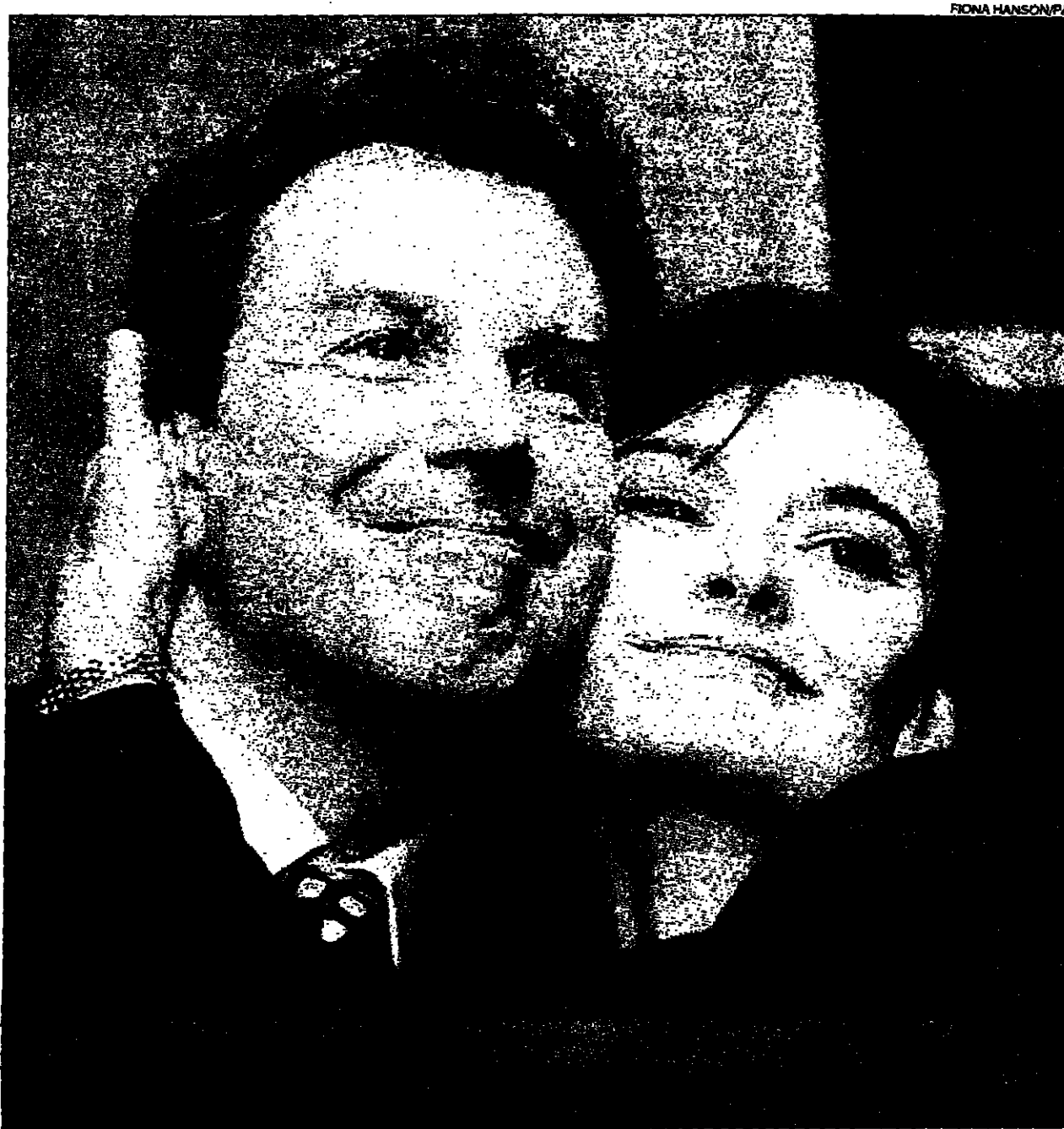
The central plank of the speech was Mr Blair's so-called "performance contract" for government. It was an idea that he had considered in the past and rejected for fear of giving hostages to fortune, but internal polling has persuaded the leadership that it must convince people that Labour would make a difference. Michael Heseltine, however, denounced it as a con trick rather than a contract.

To hammer home the message that he was preparing for government, Mr Blair said that he would make big steps forward on the European single market during Britain's presidency in early 1998. He promised business that he would not allow Britain to be left on the sidelines, but he said he would not scrap the veto and would keep options on a single currency open.

He also repeated his "fairness not favours" message to the unions and said that a Labour government would not be "the political arm of anyone but the British people". The true radical mission of Labour, old and new, was not to hold people back but to help them get on, "each generation doing better than the last".

He won cheers as he reiterated commitments to take 250,000 young people off benefit and into work and, more surprisingly, when he said that Labour would be the party of sound finance and good housekeeping. Losing control of public finance was not radical but reckless, he said. Gordon Brown would be the Iron Chancellor.

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Tony Blair is congratulated by his wife Cherie as Labour conference delegates rapturously cheer his speech

Father's stroke changed son's politics

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME Labour Party activists were close to tears yesterday when Tony Blair gave an emotional, unscripted account of his childhood trauma when his father, Leo, almost died of a stroke.

With the senior Blair sitting in the front row at the party conference, the Labour leader described the moment his "whole world fell apart" when he was 11 years old and heard that his father might not live. He said the experience had shaped his character and partly prompted his decision to

join the Labour Party in spite of his Conservative background. "I wasn't born Labour. I became Labour," he said. "And when you look back on your past you try to think of the things that shaped you."

Leo Blair, who was a successful barrister and university lecturer, was forced to abandon his own hopes of becoming a Conservative MP after the stroke left him unable to speak. Describing the effect of this on the family, Mr Blair said: "My father was a very ambitious man; he was successful; he was a go-getter. One morning I woke to be told

he had had a stroke and might not live through the day, and my whole world fell apart... "I don't pretend to you that I had a deprived childhood: I didn't, but I learnt a sense of values in my childhood," he added.

Warning: this body language may offend

AFTER Tony Blair's speech at Blackpool yesterday a small but embarrassing moment occurred. Whether you saw it will depend on whether your gaze had been lifted, as Mr Blair hoped, to the sunlit uplands or whether your eyes rested somewhere lower.

Cherie Blair had tripped in for her victory kiss. She and Tony stood facing Britain, holding hands in a chaste but affecting stance, like Jack and Jill, her right hand clasping his left. More carried away than her spouse, Cherie then swung her free arm across his body, meaning to touch his right thigh and pull him round to face her for an embrace. Tony did not cooperate. He preferred to stay facing Britain, with whom he has been having a separate

Political Sketch

Matthew Parris

affair. This left Cherie in an awkward position, half-turned towards Tony with her left hand reaching for his thigh; he staring lovingly across the top of her head, at us.

Cherie gave up. Her hand trailed across the front of Tony's trousers, coming to rest for a second in an embarrassing place. This created a stance which was as surprising as it was unintended. It lasted no more than a second, and distracted only those few (perhaps) of us underwhelmed by that Billy Graham tone in the speech.

Of this it is hard to write without concern that many good people, moved for good motives by the speech, will not recognise the shudder it caused in others. Better judged, better crafted and

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Leo Blair at the Labour conference yesterday

Middle East peace moves

President Clinton brought together the leaders of Israel and the PLO in Washington yesterday for the start of an emergency summit designed to break the impasse and give a new boost to the flagging Middle East peace process. Although the atmosphere was tense, American officials said the Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu shook hands with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President. Page 11

Tory MP admits taking fee from lobbyist

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER Tory whip last night admitted that he had accepted money from Ian Greer, the lobbyist, and had failed to disclose it in the Commons register of MPs' interests.

Michael Brown, MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, last night told *The Times* he had accepted an introduction fee from Mr Greer for bringing his lobbying company new business.

He becomes the sixth MP to have been named for receiving funds from lobbyists as the "cash for questions" row resurfaces. The disclosure came as John Major faced growing

demands to co-operate with a Parliamentary investigation into the accusations against Neil Hamilton, the former trade minister who dramatically abandoned his libel action against *The Guardian* on Monday.

The Prime Minister, who had been called as a defence witness, was challenged by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, to release all relevant Downing Street documents about the affair after Mr Hamilton made clear yesterday that he had no intention of abandoning his fight with *The Guardian*.

The revelation that a sixth

Tory MP has been linked with payments from lobbyists will dismay the Tory Party high command, which was trying to limit the political damage from the new wave of sleaze allegations. Two of the MPs declared their payments and have not breached any Commons rule.

Mr Brown, who was paid the money in 1987, said last night: "I introduced a company, US Tobacco, to Ian Greer who paid me an introduction fee. I did not declare it because I did not think I had to. The rules about declaration were much more vague then. If it had happened today I

would have had no hesitation in making a declaration."

Mr Brown became involved after challenging ministers over their decision to close a cigarette factory in Scotland, owned by US Tobacco. The company had been wooed to Britain with the aid of a £1 million Government grant.

"I felt strongly that this was a waste of taxpayers' money but quickly realised that the company required professional help," he told *The Times*. "I provided US Tobacco with a

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"Trust me to marry someone who isn't on Ian Greer's payroll"

Uncovered: the real Bond — who spied for Russia

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

A SPY codenamed Bond was recruited by Russian intelligence to steal Britain's Second World War secrets more than a decade before 007 turned the tables.

However, the only similarity is the name. To his KGB masters' fury, the real Bond was astonishingly incom-

petent, papers released yesterday by the Public Office reveal. Lacking basic espionage skills, he had to repeat one operation because photographs were either out of focus or missed out "large chunks" of top secret documents.

A 1941 signal from Moscow to London to an agent codenamed Brian, intercepted by GCHQ, said: "By the last mail we recovered Bond's material films on radio location sets and a

code memorandum on communications. The manual on radio location sets was not photographed in full from page 70 to 118. The code memorandum on communications was photographed out of focus and will not print."

The message — dated December 2, 1941 and from the Director of Russian military intelligence — ordered the Soviet military attaché in London to

get Bond to try again. On this form, it seems he would never have been given the licence to kill enjoyed by Ian Fleming's literary hero.

Perhaps, however, this was a double bluff, and he was deliberately disrupting Russia's efforts.

This was the first time an agent codenamed Bond appeared on signal traffic — and the last. Whether he completed his mission is not known.

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MP's defiance dismissed as 'final act of bluff' as newspaper steps up claims

Commons inquiry urged into 'cash for questions'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR GORDON DOWNEY, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, said yesterday that he was ready to conduct an inquiry into "cash for questions" allegations against MPs but admitted that he had virtually no powers.

The Tory MP Neil Hamilton and *The Guardian* backed a parliamentary inquiry, considered the only way of investigating the accusations after the eleven-hour collapse of the former Trade Minister's libel action against the newspaper.

Such an inquiry would, however, be lengthy and less effective at investigating the allegations than court proceedings, which would carry powers to order disclosure of documents. Sir Gordon said that he had no power to compel witnesses to attend or to require evidence to be

released. Also, the inquiry was to be conducted in private. But Sir Gordon could seek the backing of the Standards and Privileges Select Committee.

"My powers are very few; I have virtually none at all," he said yesterday. "But as I would be acting on behalf of the select committee, and they do have power to send for persons and for papers, I could refer any refusal to them. If they chose, they could then exercise their powers on my behalf." A refusal to comply with the select committee's request would be a contempt of court, he said.

Sir Gordon had not yet received a formal request for an inquiry into the "cash for questions" allegations but said that "on the face of it, it is certainly something that would appear to fall within my remit". Mr Hamilton looked

tense yesterday as he pledged to "clear my name of the stain for which *The Guardian* is responsible". He accused the newspaper of fabricating the material it published yesterday in support of its claim that he accepted cash in return for asking questions in the Commons.

He predicted that he would clear his name within weeks. "I feel calm, determined and resolute. We go on to the next stage. I am not a quitter."

The Guardian published fresh material to support its allegation that Mr Hamilton received thousands of pounds for asking questions for Mohamed Al Fayed's Harrods group. Three long-standing employees of Mr Fayed were said to have made sworn statements saying that Mr Hamilton had regularly collected envelopes stuffed with £50 notes from the tycoon's office in Park Lane, London.

Alan Rusbridger, Editor of *The Guardian*, dismissed Mr Hamilton's defiance as a "final act of bluff". He said: "The difficulty with everything that Mr Hamilton has said is that he is a man who is living in fantasy land. Very little that he says corresponds with the truth as we know it from the [case] papers."

The Guardian also claimed that Mr Hamilton was one of five Tory MPs recruited by Ian Greer, a parliamentary lobbyist, in the 1980s to lobby on behalf of Mr Fayed. They included Tim Smith, the Beaconsfield MP who resigned as a junior Northern Ireland Minister in 1994 after admitting his involvement. The other MPs named by *The Guardian* were Sir Michael Gyles, Sir Peter Hordern and Sir Andrew Bowden. Of those, only Sir Peter was said to have complied with the parliamentary rules and declared his actions in the Register of Members' Interests. Sir An-



Neil Hamilton and his wife Christine at his lawyers' office yesterday. The MP said: "I am not a quitter"

drew yesterday strongly denied receiving payment from Mr Fayed.

Mr Hamilton said he could not comment on what might have been said about other MPs. But the claims about himself were "entirely false". He would comply with an inquiry and was happy for any documents to be handed to it.

The key question would be whether all the material for a court order could be disclosed. It is a rule of litigation that documents released for the purposes of court proceedings may be used only for those proceedings. But a parliamentary inquiry would be able to ask government departments to release the documents afresh.

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Lobbyist who channels cash to a select band of MPs

By ANDREW PIERCE

IAN Greer has channelled thousands of pounds into the general election fighting funds of a select band of leading Tory, Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, have each accepted donations from Mr Greer for their election campaigns.

Doug Hoyle, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, who is a friend of Mr Greer, was a beneficiary at the 1987 and 1992 general elec-

tions. The practice of paying money to election fighting funds is widespread in the lobbying industry. *The Times* has learnt. It is entirely legal and does not breach any parliamentary regulations.

The all-party nature of the donations from Mr Greer is a further indication of the growing influence of lobbyists in British politics.

The source of the donations in 1987 was Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, who contributed £18,000. Mr Al Fayed employed Mr Greer's company in the 1980s during his takeover bid for Harrods. DHL International, the courier company, which

was also a client of Mr Greer's, made a sizeable donation. Mr Greer allocated the money to the MPs for Mr Al Fayed and DHL. The politicians were not aware of the identity of the donors.

Neither Mr Al Fayed nor DHL were told which constituencies had benefited so there would be no anticipation or expectation on either side.

The donations ranged in size from £250 for Chris Smith in 1992, to £2,000 for Norman Lamont in 1987. The donation came from DHL, which is in Mr Lamont's Kingston constituency.

Leading article, page 17

Court rejects cash claim over failed vasectomy

A judge has thrown out a couple's attempt to sue over a failed vasectomy that resulted in the birth of their fifth child after ruling that they have not suffered a loss. George and Laura McFarlane of Arbroath had sought £110,000 damages from Tayside Health Board at the Court of Session in Edinburgh after the girl was born. Lord Gill's decision contradicts previous rulings in Scotland and England.

Drinks remix

The makers of four brands of "alcopop" drinks are to change their labels after complaints to the Portman Group. Whitbread's Lemon Jag and Vanilla Hot will be renamed because of connotations with crime. Bass's Hooper's Hooch and Spill Drinks's Jammin' are to have cartoon characters removed from the labels.

Crime crackdown

A crackdown on violent disorder and petty crime in Britain started in Strathclyde with police arresting 243 wanted men and women. The Spotlight Initiative is modelled on New York's successful "broken windows" exercise in which tackling petty crime such as vandalism has led to a fall in major crime.

Road challenge

Friends of the Earth was given leave in the High Court yesterday to challenge the Department of Transport over its approval for a £76 million bypass within sight of Salisbury Cathedral. Protesters claim it will ruin one of England's best-known vistas, while transport officials say it will ease heavy congestion in the city centre.

Police apologise

Essex Police apologised "unreservedly" to the family of Margaret Jarvis after officers failed to find the car containing her body and those of her two young sons, despite a week-long search early last month. The vehicle was eventually found half a mile from Mrs Jarvis's home in Noun-sley, a hosepipe leading into it from the exhaust.

Train hold-up

An express train from Sheffield to London was held up near Biddenden, Bedfordshire, yesterday by a passenger who broke into the driver's cab and threatened to kill him after the train stopped at a red signal. Other passengers dialled 999 on mobile phones. A man is being questioned by police. Nobody was injured.

Pensions inquiry

A businessman who won £2.6 million on the National Lottery is being investigated by the fraud squad. Harry Thomas, 67, ran a family haulage firm, Thomas Brothers (Merton) Ltd in Seaham, Co Durham, which went into liquidation. Police interviewed him over allegations that he had paid his company's pension fund.

Sold unseen

Jaguar has taken seven months' worth of orders for its new sports car even though many buyers have yet to see it. The company has received 5,000 orders for the XK8 which went on sale officially yesterday. Planned output at its Coventry plant for next year has been increased from 12,000 to 13,500. About half will go to the US.

Baby for Sarah, 13

Sarah Cook, the 13-year-old schoolgirl who returned home after marrying a waiter in Turkey, gave birth to a baby boy last night in an unnamed English hospital. Shortly after the birth of her 7lb son she telephoned its 18-year-old father in Turkey. Sarah and her baby, both wards of the High Court, are in good health.

Tory MP took fee

Continued from page 1

list of public affairs consultants. They chose Ian Greer. He gave me an introduction fee. I never worked for Ian Greer or lobbied for him, which was why I thought I did not have to declare the payment.

"I will make all the relevant papers available to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, and co-operate fully in any investigation."

Neil Hamilton said yesterday that he would also refer the case to Sir Gordon. Alan Rusbridger, Editor of *The Guardian*, dismissed the move as the "final act of bluff".

Lord Nolan, chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, stepped into the controversy yesterday when he backed the idea of an inquiry by Sir Gordon into what he described as the

"serious" allegations against Mr Hamilton. He said: "The continuing accusations and counter accusations in this case are damaging to the reputation of Parliament and the truth of the matter needs to be properly investigated."

At the Labour Party conference in Blackpool, Tony Blair moved swiftly to exploit the affair as he reaffirmed his pledge to legislate to force political parties to declare the source of all large donations.

"The Tories changed the law to let Mr Hamilton bring his case. We will change the law to make the Tories clean up their act," Mr Blair said in his conference speech.

Support for Mr Hamilton in the parliamentary party appeared to be draining away last night.

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Blair brings Labour delegates home to a messianic performance

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better delivered than Michael Portillo's fiasco at the Tory conference last year, it still had something of the same faintly messianic ring. Grandiosity, especially when unaccompanied by any plan of action, can grate. Staking claims to larger things than politicians can command is a dangerous game, and perhaps better left to prophets.

After telling us that the era he

would usher in would be described by historians as "The Decent Society", Mr Blair started to cry "a thousand days for a thousand years" repeatedly. He probably meant the 31 months during which he believes he will be Prime Minister before the year 2000.

Perhaps, then, we should dub his tone yesterday "millennialist". On the morning of his speech this sketch had described Labour's

stage-set as hovering between the neo-fascist and the neolithic. In fact the speech spanned both periods. Representing Mr Blair as an apostolic part of an unbroken line stretching from the discovery of fire, through the prophets then, by way of Wilberforce, to trade unionism, Nye Bevan, Alan Howarth... and - you guessed? Mr Blair. Apparently all these people share an ideal larger even than socialism: they

want "a better world". Mr Blair did not explain which politicians it is who do not want a better world. The tone can best be described as "Mosleyite without the anti-Semitism". Oswald Mosley also christened his party "new". The language of regeneration characterises both men, as Leo Abse remarks in a recent psycho-biography of Blair. The body language yesterday was remarkable. He swaggered onto the

stage and swung round, jacket unbuttoned, like a male model. During the speech he repeatedly flung his arms out, stretched his hands forward, caged his fingers, cradle-fashion towards his heart and stared up at the sky - or was it the Union Jack projected chillingly onto a screen above him? After the speech he made a trance-like movement from the podium. To accompany part of a curtain-

raising video, Blair chose the seductively narcissistic David Bowie. Abse wrote this: "Roll on, Blair... singing your bewildered androgynous anthem..." "Rock on, Blair, with the moon dust and with the kids." "Labour's coming home!" shouted Blair, three times. Good. Can I suggest a mug of Horlicks and an early night?

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Warning on fees for Cambridge

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE may be forced to introduce tuition fees for students within five years, its new Vice-Chancellor said yesterday.

Professor Alec Broers said he could not rule out charges to students being brought in during his term of office, which began this week. He said he would never allow a student's finances to prohibit entry to Cambridge, but suggested it might have to follow leading American universities which charge means-tested course fees.

The *Times* disclosed yesterday that Cambridge was one of 78 institutions of higher education forecast to be running at a loss by the end of the decade under current Government funding plans.

Professor Broers, who was formally installed as Vice-Chancellor in a ceremony yesterday, said student fees remained one answer to universities' cash problems. He would also be encouraging innovative approaches to

donors' pay, including more posts shared with industry, to tempt the best brains to stay in Britain.

A growing number of leading universities have discussed introducing fees, including Birmingham and Manchester, but only one, the London School of Economics, has agreed them in principle. Vice-chancellors have threatened a £300 entry levy for all students in 1997 unless cuts amounting to £850 million over two years are restored in the Budget.

Professor Broers said his main aims as vice-chancellor were to maintain and enhance Cambridge's reputation for excellence, and to "sustain complete open entry". He added: "We are going along with the rest of the vice-chancellors at the moment. I am optimistic we can work out a solution that does not put a heavy burden on the students. If you look at Harvard, they do sustain open entry, however, all those who can pay, do pay."

Civilians to teach flying to Services

By MICHAEL EVANS

CIVILIANS are to take over responsibility for teaching the three Armed Services how to fly helicopters in a contract worth about £400 million, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday.

The biggest privatisation of the services since commercial companies began taking over support work from the military, including aircraft maintenance, will come into effect from next April. Under the deal signed with a consortium of companies including Bristow Helicopters, basic helicopter flying training will be concentrated at a single school at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire.

Once the single tri-service Defence Helicopter Flying School is operating, the basic training currently carried out by the Royal Navy at Culdrose in Cornwall and by the Army at Middle Wallop in Hampshire will transfer to Shawbury, where the RAF already has its training establishment.

Israeli embassy bomb trial begins

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

JURORS chosen to try two men and two women facing charges including a car bomb attack on the Israeli embassy were warned by an Old Bailey judge yesterday not to let anyone discuss the Palestinian situation or Israel with them.

The trial is due to begin today and the warning was given after the four defendants all pleaded not guilty yesterday. Jawad Botneh, 28, of Bloomsbury, central London; Samir Alami, 30, of South Kensington, west London; and Mahmud Abu-Wardeh, 26, of Putney, south-west London, all denied charges involving explosives and firearms.

They include conspiring to cause explosions between January 1993 and May 1995. The other charges are one alleging possession of an explosive substance known as TATP on or before 25 May, 1995 and three charges involving the possession of firearms.

The fourth defendant Nadia Zekra, 30, of west Kensington, London, denied a single

charge of causing an explosion at the Israeli embassy on 26 July 1994.

Yesterday before the jury was sworn in they were asked whether there was anything in their background which might affect how they dealt with the case. Later Mr Justice Garland told the jury that the trial was a high profile case. He said it would start with two car bombs: one was outside the Israeli Embassy and the other at the premises of a Jewish philanthropic institution at Balfour House, Finchley.

The judge said that due to the current problems in the Middle East the case would be in the public eye because the defendants were of Palestinian origin and they were alleged to have conspired to cause explosions against Israeli or Jewish institutions.

Mr Justice Garland said it was vital that the jury did not allow anyone to talk to them about the case. They must not let anyone tell them about the Palestine situation.

Committee formed to abolish committees

By TIM JONES

LABOUR-controlled Birmingham City Council has decided to slim down its costly 125 committees by forming another committee to deal with them. The Orwellian-sounding Finance and Management and General Purposes Committee's Joint Working Party (Review of Committee and Sub-committee Structure) Committee has been given six months in which to examine the other committees.

Earlier this year, the council was criticised for expanding its "political

correctness empire" by setting up an equalities committee. The new committee has been charged with reducing the £1.5m annual cost which the committees cost the taxpayers of Britain's largest authority.

Over the past decade the number of committees has increased to 18 main committees, 60 sub-committees, eight joint sub-committees and 39 ward sub-committees.

Last year they held 845 meetings, at a cost of about £1 million for the 34 staff required to organise their gatherings, excluding the cost of preparing meetings

and reports before committee members could meet. The only main committee which the council is legally required to establish is the social services committee. The council decides on the number and roles of the other committees that it is now burdened with.

Andy Howell, a Labour councillor who is chairman of the working party, agreed yesterday that the committee system had become "cumbersome and bureaucratic". He added: "We want to co-ordinate our key corporate policies, ensure a proper system of scrutiny and make sure we are as efficient as we can be."

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Judges for 1996 prize praised for selecting six of the best from a strong field

Fiction newcomer may spell fourth Booker letdown for Bainbridge

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE acclaimed writer Beryl Bainbridge faces stiff competition from the debut novelist Seamus Deane for the 1996 Booker Prize. Bainbridge has been shortlisted three times before without success.

There was little surprise in literary circles that *Every Man for Himself*, Bainbridge's story inspired by the fate of the *Titanic*, was on the six-strong shortlist for the £20,000 award. But widespread admiration was expressed for Mr Deane, a lecturer. One source said that the judges had no hesitation in shortlisting *Reading in the Dark*, his story about a boy enclosed in two worlds, one legendary and the other actual — Londonderry in the Forties and Fifties.

Mr Deane and Bainbridge face strong competition from Graham Swift's *Last Orders*, which was also shortlisted without argument. Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace*, Shena Mackay's *The Orchard on Fire* and Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance*. Literary observers said it was a strong shortlist and there was no clear favourite for the prize, which guarantees higher sales

for the winner. Publishers submitted 123 titles. Those that failed to make the final six included Ben Elton's *Popcorn*; *The Brimstone Wedding* by Barbara Vine (the pseudonym of Ruth Rendell); *Story of the Night* by Colin Toibin; and *A Peppercorn* by Tim Binding.

Swift, best known for his 1983 work *Waterland*, regards his shortlisted book as his strongest yet. Although delighted at the Booker news, he expressed regret about the "race-horse element" of competition, pitting one writer against another.

The judges are chaired by Carmen Callil, the writer and co-founder of the feminist publisher Virago, who is considered a stern critic of the male-dominated publishing industry. The 1996 shortlist has the highest number of women in the Booker's 29-year history. Last year's winner, Pat Barker's *The Ghost Road*, was the only book on the shortlist by a woman.

Dan Franklin, publishing director of Jonathan Cape, said: "It's really good that the shortlist has three women."

Booker usually has people saying, "Why aren't there more women?" They've got three very good women. It's the best Booker shortlist for years."

The Booker has become known for controversy and bickering. The 1994 winner, James Kelman's explosive-ridden *How late it was, how late*, was denounced by one of the judges as a disgrace. But the 1996 shortlist won wide approval yesterday.

Alastair Niven, literature director of the Arts Council of England and a Booker judge in 1994, said: "It is a very strong list indeed. I would have been horrified if the books by Mistry or Atwood hadn't been on it: both are masterpieces. Swift is also to be expected."

"I'm delighted to see Deane there. He's a name to be aware of. I think it might be Mistry's year, a wonderful book."

Nicholas Clee, of *The Book Seller*, said: "It's a good list. Given the range of fiction on offer, I should think booksellers will be pleased. They will see Atwood, Swift and Bainbridge books sell in reasonably large quantities."

"Two personal favourites would be Bainbridge and Swift. If I had to back anyone, it would just about lean towards Swift. What I particularly admire is that he is an unflashy but serious writer. The book is quiet. It doesn't show off, but is moving and thoughtful."

Alan Giles, managing director of Waterstones, said: "We think it's a great list. It's been a very good year for literary fiction. That is illustrated by the quality and diversity of this list."

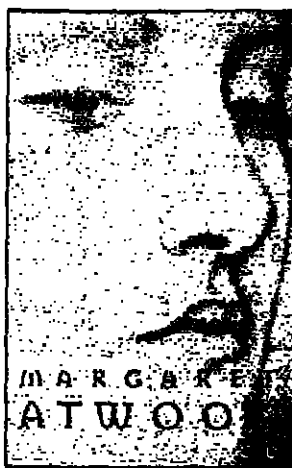
The shortlist was drawn up during a four-hour meeting of the five judges. One of them, the novelist Jonathan Coo, described the meeting as hard-fought. "It was quite draining in a way because you get emotionally involved with some of these books," he said.

"There were a few arguments, partly because there was an embarrassment of riches. There were ten or 12 books that each had strong advocates among the members of the panel. But nobody left in tears or muttering to themselves. These are books that will last. Each will be giving pleasure to people in ten years."

The winner will be announced at Guildhall, London, on October 29. BBC2 will screen the results live.



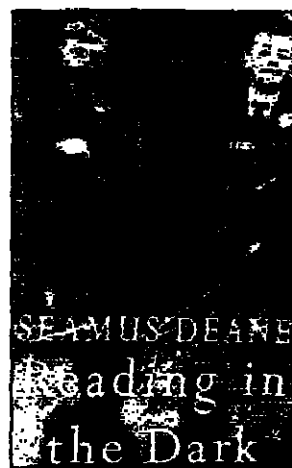
The judges, from left: Jonathan Coo, novelist; Carmen Callil; Ian Jack, Editor of *Granta*; Martyn Goff, Booker administrator; A.N. Wilson, author and literary editor; and A.L. Kennedy, author



ALIAS GRACE
By Margaret Atwood
(Bloomsbury, £14.99)

In *The Handmaid's Tale*, the Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood imagined the future. Here she conjures up the past with fact as the basis: Grace Marks was young and beautiful when, along with James McDermott, she was accused of the Montgomery-Kinnear murders in Canada in 1843. McDermott was hanged and Grace imprisoned. Atwood's novel gives Grace a voice as Dr Simon Jordan, a proponent of the infant science of psychology, probes for the truth of her tale. Atwood's *Car's Eye* was shortlisted for the prize in 1989.

William Hill odds: 3-1.



READING IN THE DARK
By Seamus Deane
(Jonathan Cape, £13.99)

Seamus Deane's unnamed narrator is the third of seven children born into a Catholic family in Derry. Set in the 1940s and 1950s, it portrays a world of grim reality and lyrical fantasy, as the boy retreats into the comfort of his books, where the heroism of Irish folk tales provide a vivid counterpoint to the secrets and sectarian divisions of his family. Deane, General Editor of *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing*, has published four volumes of poetry and the book's prose is lifted by his vivid and poetic imagery. It has been three years since a first novel appeared on a Booker shortlist.

Odds: 6-1.



EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF
By Beryl Bainbridge
(Duckworth, £14.99)

Beryl Bainbridge's fifteenth novel is set aboard the *Titanic*. It returns to the theme of a doomed journey that haunted her last book, *The Birthday Boys*, set during Scott's expedition to the South Pole. The novel is told in the voice of Morgan, whose illusions about life and love and his place in the world are gradually stripped away. "Now that I knew I was going to live," he concludes as the ship sinks, "there was something dishonourable in survival." This is the fourth time Bainbridge has appeared on the Booker shortlist but she has yet to win.

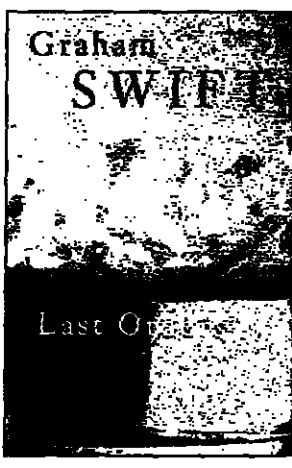
Odds: 5-2.



A FINE BALANCE
By Rohinton Mistry
(Faber, £15.99)

This is Rohinton Mistry's second novel. The first, *Such a Long Journey*, was on the Booker shortlist in 1991. Mistry, who was born in Bombay, sets his novel in India during the 1970s, the time of Indira Gandhi. The widowed Dina Dalal struggles to maintain her place at the edge of Indian middle-class existence: her life intersects with two tailors, forced from their native village into the city, and a student from a hill station near the Himalayas. Mistry provides a sweeping overview of Indian life as he follows the stories of these individuals and the characters they encounter.

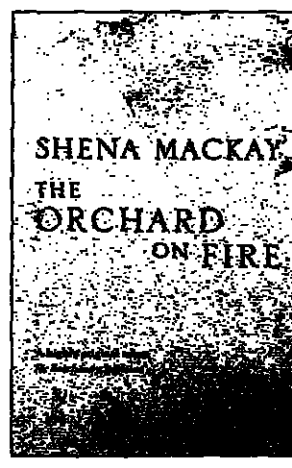
Odds: 5-1.



LAST ORDERS
By Graham Swift
(Picador, £15.99)

Graham Swift, one of the Book Marketing Council's best of young British novelists in 1983 — the year his *Waterland* was shortlisted for the Booker — proves his mature worth with the redemptive *Last Orders*. Four men embark on a day trip from Bermondsey to Margate to scatter the ashes of Jack Dodds, a deceased butcher, in accordance with his last wishes. Along the way they are sidetracked to locations and recollections that reveal both the scope and limitations of their tight-knit East End world. The novel's seemingly plain style makes authentic the voices of its characters.

Odds: 3-1.



THE ORCHARD ON FIRE
By Shena Mackay
(Heinemann, £12.99)

Shena Mackay was born in Edinburgh but grew up in Shoreham and her seventh novel is set in a fictional "Stonebridge" that recreates the country town of her youth. It is Coronation Year and Percy and Betty Harleney have given up on London to run the Copper Kettle Tearoom in Stonebridge: their eight-year-old daughter April befriends Ruby, daughter of the local publican. But Ruby's life is no idyll and the novel reveals that behind the dream of chintz and sunny afternoons lies a more disturbing reality of an English town in a year of transition.

Odds: 5-1.

Yates home to fight for custody

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

PAULA YATES, the television presenter, flew home from holiday in Australia yesterday to prepare for a High Court battle with her former husband Bob Geldof for custody of their three daughters.

The couple will appear before a judge in the Family Division, where Mr Geldof won temporary custody last week of Fifi Trixibelle, 13, Peaches, 6, and Pixie, 4, in their mother's absence.

Mr Geldof, the singer and Live Aid campaigner, launched the action after a police raid on the London home of his former wife and the singer Michael Hutchence in which opium was allegedly found in a tube of Smarties under the bed.

Ms Yates said that she had not yet been asked by police to account for the alleged discovery of drugs.

Gormans fined £6,000 and face huge legal bill after 'slighting' listed farmhouse

By A STAFF REPORTER

TERESA GORMAN and her husband were each fined £3,000 yesterday for changing their 16th-century farmhouse without listed-building consent. The case at Grays, Essex, ends a two-year wrangle between Thurrock Council and the Euro-sceptic Tory MP for Billericay over Old Hall Farm, her Grade II listed home at Orsett.

She and her husband James were each ordered to pay £4,000 costs. Mrs Gorman said after the case that she faced enormous legal bills that had still to be assessed.

She said of the court decision: "I am enormously relieved. The court made it clear this was at the lower end of culpability. This has blighted our lives for two years. If the council had talked to us, this could all have been prevented. Think of the cost to the ratepayers. I fell in love with



Mrs Gorman and the 16th-century farmhouse which underwent 29 changes of which the council disapproved. "I hope now we are going to be left in peace"

the building. If you put your heart and soul into a house, you certainly don't want to move away. Perhaps in ten years' time it might be worth what we have paid out on it."

"It is now clear the courts have had their say and I hope we are going to be left in peace in our lovely house which my husband has brought back to life." The couple had pleaded



guilty under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act to alterations affecting the character of a building of architectural and historical interest.

Mark Romer, the stipendiary magistrate, said he accepted the Gormans were motivated by "a desire to find somewhere peaceful to live and to restore the building to a

habitable state. It is not a wilful defiance of the planning law."

But some alterations had affected the character of the building. "It is perfectly clear that the purpose of the Act is to preserve what is left in this country of fine, original buildings, and if work is to be carried out, it must be done with consent. This was and

still is a fine building," Peter Richards, an architect for the council, listed 29 changes that were detrimental to the character of the timber-framed building, which had been "slighted". Work done without consent included adding a porch, which had since been removed, and removing an 18th-century brick facade.

The couple bought the dilapidated house in 1992 for £170,000 and spent £230,000 on restoration. It was now valued at £250,000. Mr Gorman said that he had had a meeting with the chief planning officer, who made no mention of listed-building consent on the property, which had been boarded up. Work began in August 1993 and in the following June Annette Reeves, a planning officer, knocked at the front door and asked: "Why did you take out the sash windows?" Mr Gorman said: "Her visit was like a bolt from the blue."

One is rather amused, in a grotesque fashion

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT



The Queen: offered the project her support

CARICATURES of the Prince of Wales, the Queen and Prince William have been mounted on a church spire in south London as part of a £500,000 restoration programme. The grotesques, whose ears and teeth are accentuated, sit next to carvings of the vicar, churchwardens and local dignitaries on the spire of St John the Divine, built in 1870 in Kennington by the architect George Street.

As the 260 ft spire was being restored, the Prince of Wales gave his permission for the stone carving to feature on the

Victorian Gothic church, which overlooks land owned by the Duchy of Cornwall. He also made a "generous" donation to the restoration fund.

The Queen is also said to have approved the project. The Rev Lyle Dennen, the vicar, said: "It was intended as fun and the Queen has been very supportive. We received her permission. The Queen's gargoyle is next to a young Brixton lad who was murdered by drug dealers. I'm up there and so is a local teacher."

Barbara Cartland, the author and Royalist, criticised the carvings as "distasteful". But Tim Crawley, head carver at the Cambridge architects Rattee and

Kett, said: "It was not done in a malicious way. I don't think anyone is beyond a joke. The church is built in a Victorian Gothic style and there is a tradition of the grotesque in this style of architecture."

The 60 grotesques, technically "label stops" that provide a decorative finish to a moulding, also include portraits of the Duke of Gloucester, who made a donation, the Right Rev Roy Williamson, Bishop of Southwark, and the former Archbishop of Canterbury, the late Michael Ramsey. Some members of the congregation also paid £25 each to have their features immortalised in the sand-coloured Bath stone.



The Prince gave cash to restoration fund

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British and American codebreakers took years to decipher Cold War cryptograms from the KGB

The innocuous message that unmasked traitor Maclean

By IAN MURRAY
AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

THE coded message that eventually unmasked Donald Maclean as a Soviet spy in 1951 had nothing to do with official secrets. Intercepted in 1944, it took cryptographers working on the Venona project unravelled KGB cryptograms years to work out that it said Maclean had travelled to New York to visit his wife, who was there because she was having a baby.

The innocuous message was crucial. In the early 1950s, Maclean was one of more than 6,000 diplomats and officials known to have access to information that the KGB was known to possess. The decoded message about his visit showed that he was the only one who had been in New York regularly at the time the information must have been passed over.

The message was among 2,500 intercepted by American and British listening posts between 1940 and 1947 and released by the Public Record Office yesterday. The cryptograms were so complex, with the codes changing daily, that not only did they take years to decipher, but the messages were rarely complete.

The first of the English KGB agents to learn that Maclean's cover had been blown was Kim Philby. As a liaison officer for M16

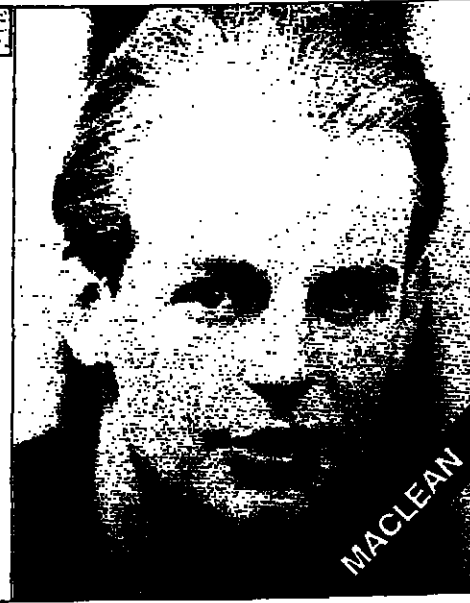


working in Washington between 1949 and 1951, he was given regular reports about the progress of the Venona project. Philby told Guy Burgess, about to travel home from the Washington Embassy aboard the *Queen Mary*, and gave him instructions to tell Anthony Blunt, who was to warn Maclean. Philby told Burgess that he was to remain under cover. However, Burgess told Maclean himself and the two escaped to France aboard a ferry

two days before Maclean was to have been interrogated by M15. As a result, both Philby and Blunt were revealed as spies, although not immediately exposed publicly. The decoded messages show how useful "Homer" (Maclean's code name) had been to the KGB. In September 1943, he reported to them that "Captain" (Roosevelt), President of the "Country" (the United States), was to meet "Boar" (Churchill), Prime Minister of the

THE RUSSIAN CODES

IT SEEMS that the hard-faced, heavy-handed KGB men of the Cold War era may not have as humourless as Western spy fiction would have had us believe. According to messages decoded in operation Venona, they referred to the Germans as "sausage makers" and France as "Gastronomia". Soviet agents used the secret messages as a personal shopping service. Requests included orders for books and, in one case, a specific instruction to find a cheap secondhand edition of George Bernard Shaw's six-volume *Prefaces*. There were also instructions to check up on the families of Soviet agents. One message to Stockholm read: "Find out how his father is. It is advisable to inquire about the relatives of all our workers." Among their code names were Trust (the Soviet Embassy in Washington), The Factory (the Soviet Trade Organisation in America), Tyre (New York), Sida (London), Babylon (San Francisco), Country House (the White House), Bank (the American State Department), Khata (the FBI), Arsenal (the American War Department), Pool (the British Embassy in Washington), Nook (the Foreign Office), Gymnast (a member of the Young Communist League), White Hares (White Russians) and Polecats (Trotskyists). Great Britain was referred to as "Island", and other codenames included Land (Canada), Gastronomia (France), Islanders (the British), Boar (Churchill), Captain (Roosevelt), Sailor (Harry S Truman), "Music" was a radio wireless post and "to play music" meant to operate a radio or wire. "Green" or "the competition" referred a member of a non-Soviet counter-espionage agency.



probably John Carruthers Little, the industrial commissioner at the Ministry of Labour.

The KGB was also running two important French agents from London. One codenamed "Jerome" was identified as André Labarthe, director-general of French armament and scientific research at General de Gaulle's HQ. "Martha" was also a key player. She was probably Alta Martha Lecoutre, his secretary and a committed Communist who was judged by the KGB to be more politically astute than her boss. She had previously been the mistress of Pierre Cot, the French aviation minister, who had also passed secrets to the KGB, in New York.

The successful London operation was ultimately threatened by the defection of Gregor Guzenko, a cypher clerk in Ottawa, in September 1945. "Viktor" (Lieutenant General Pavel Fitin, head of the KGB), warned "Bob" (Boris Krotov, third secretary and consul in London), to be aware of "intensification of counter-measures against us being carried out in the Islands". On September 21, 1945, Viktor advised Bob to "transfer Hicks to the control of Adams (unidentified), and cut down meetings with him to once a month".

Letters, page 17

Cardinal bows out with plea to IRA

By NICHOLAS WATT

CARDINAL Cahal Daly called on the IRA to restore its ceasefire when he retired yesterday as the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland and as Archbishop of Armagh.

Dr Daly, who was 79 yesterday, will be remembered for his fierce attacks on the IRA during his six years as primate. His retirement speech, delivered in the archbishop's residence, condemned IRA terrorism as "futile, politically inept and morally wrong".

The cardinal said that his greatest regret was that the peace process was "so perversely slow and fraught with so many setbacks". The recent arms finds in London showed that the IRA was committed to violence while Sinn Féin was committed to political methods. He urged the republican movement to "desist from sending out contradictory and self-cancelling signals".

The Most Rev Sean Brady, 57, Coadjutor Archbishop of Armagh, will be installed as archbishop next month.

□ Sir Patrick Mayhew said last night that he believed loyalist prisoners had withdrawn support from multi-party talks, not from the loyalist ceasefire.

Photograph, page 24

Garda hold 18 over murder of journalist

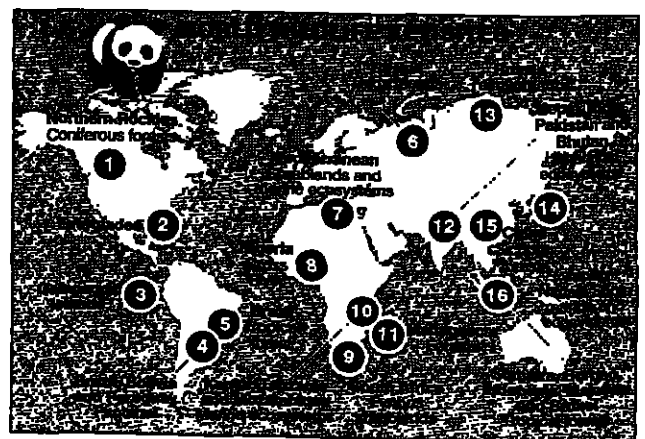
By AUDREY MAGEE

IRISH police have arrested 18 people in connection with the murder of Veronica Guerin, the Dublin journalist shot dead in June by a hitman.

Hundreds of police raided houses around Dublin late on Monday evening and early yesterday. They arrested ten women and eight men who were being questioned in Garda stations around the city. They were held under a section of the Offences Against the State Act, which allows detention for 48 hours.

The arrests were the latest in a series in connection with the murder. Police sources said those held, while not thought to be responsible for the murder, might have information that would lead to the killers. It is understood that £70,000 thought to belong to the man who ordered the assassination of Ms Guerin was seized in the raids.

Graham Turley, Ms Guerin's husband, has said that the Garda believe they know who organised the killing. In an article in *Irish Times* magazine, Mr Turley writes: "They seem to have boiled it down to a certain person who has orchestrated the whole thing." Ms Guerin, 37, who wrote about the underworld, was shot dead on the outskirts of Dublin as she sat in her car at traffic lights in June.



Scientists list 200 key wildlife sites

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

TWO hundred sites where 95 per cent of the world's wildlife could be conserved have been identified by scientists. The sites, which range from river basins and arctic tundra to tropical forests and coral reefs, are to form the backbone of a 30-nation conservation effort headed by the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Under the plan, launched in London and 29 other cities simultaneously via a satellite link yesterday, the charity is to form partnerships with companies, governments and local people to try to preserve habitats. The campaign is also aimed at industries which are causing huge environmental damage.

Yesterday Unilever, the world's biggest processor of frozen fish, with brand names such as Birds Eye, said it was backing the charity's marine stewardship council.

Later this year the council will draw up guidelines on how to catch and process fish

at sustainable levels. Frozen foods should be on the market soon that carry certification labels, showing that the fish have come from a sustainable fishery.

Another company, AssiDoman of Sweden, which owns forests the size of Belgium, said it was switching its production to sustainable forestry under another certification scheme.

Other industries are being urged to tackle emissions of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas, through energy efficiency schemes.

Claude Martin, director general of WWF International, said the charity would be renewing its efforts to save the tiger, giant panda and the black rhino.

He said the key element in making conservation efforts work was to recognise that local people could not be excluded and had to have a stake in the wildlife and habitats.

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Room at the top where a multimillionaire toils

By Robert Miller and Stephen Farrell

A TINY top-floor office in north London, reached through a narrow doorway between two shops, is where one man earns £50 million a year.

Spencer Nicholas "Nick" Roditi, a money manager, earns his living as a senior adviser to George Soros, one of the world's most successful financial speculators. Mr Soros hit the headlines when he made \$1 billion by betting against sterling in the 1992 currency crisis.

The office of N Roditi and Co is perched above Hampstead High Street, over the Gap clothes store. In the confined space Mr Roditi advises Mr Soros on the \$1.5 billion New York-based Quota fund — a "hedge" fund which in recent years has been the most successful of the seven funds run by Mr Soros under the Quantum umbrella, in which \$12 billion is invested.

Mr Roditi and his wife Pamela live in Cannon Lodge, a £1.3 million listed building in one of the most exclusive parts of Hampstead. The red-



Nick Roditi, whose successful money-managing business is fronted by a modest nameplate



bricked former parsonage and 120-foot grounds are set well back from the leafy road and protected by a six-foot wall and black wrought iron gate. The rear has a panoramic view across London.

But, like its owner and his office, there is more to it than meets the eye. Builders who spent more than a year working on the interior before Mr Roditi moved in told neighbours that they had installed an underground swimming

pool beneath the front lawn. Mr Roditi also plans to install a glazed orangery.

The means by which Mr Roditi has accumulated his wealth — hedge funds — do not invest in company shares but make their money from taking bets on global economic issues, such as the future movements in currencies and world interest rates. Mr Roditi, who speaks to Mr Soros by telephone at least

twice a week, is rated as one of the most astute hedge fund advisers. Last year the Quota fund rose by a staggering 159 per cent while this year it is up by 34 per cent so far.

Before setting up on his own in 1988 Mr Roditi spent about ten years working at Schroders, the independent merchant bank, where he worked in London and the Far East before leaving to join Lord Jacob Rothschild at his Rothschild group.

Mr Soros has more than once admitted that hedge funds such as Quantum have become victims of their own success. As smaller entities they used to be able to nip in and out of the world's money markets before others realised what they were up to. Now he says they are so large that the crucial element of surprise is often lost.

For all the talk of multi-million pound gains and bonuses hedge funds can also lose a great deal of money. On St Valentine's Day 1994, for example, Quantum admitted to losing \$600 million after an unsuccessful punt that the dollar would strengthen against the yen.



Contrast of styles: Nick Roditi's tiny top-floor office in Hampstead, north London, and his £1.3 million home

Specialist calls for law to prevent unusual families

By Jeremy Laurance and Adrian Lee

TIGHTER legal safeguards for fertility treatments are needed to prevent the creation of "exceptional" families, a leading British specialist said yesterday.

Dr Stuart Horner, chairman of the British Medical Association's ethical committee, said the case of Mandy Allwood — who has lost three of her eight fetuses — highlighted the importance of a change in the law to protect children. Last night Ms Allwood was said to be comfortable and resting in the labour suite at King's College Hospital, south east London. Her five surviving babies were said by a hospital spokesman to be stable, but their outlook was uncertain.

Dr Horner said: "We should not create situations in which the child is going to be brought up in circumstances which are clearly going to be exceptional. This makes me resist assisted fertilisation for post-menopausal women, lesbian couples and surrogacy for homosexual men."

As for Ms Allwood, he said he felt "very sorry", but she should have taken her doctor's advice to have some of the babies aborted to give the others a better chance. In recent years women over 60 and lesbian couples have been treated at infertility clinics in Britain. Last month a homosexual couple fathered a baby using sperm from one of the men and a surrogate mother.

Dr Horner said the BMA had raised the issue with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which licenses clinics carrying out test-tube fertilisation and artificial insemination, but had been told that the authority had no power to intervene under the law. "I know there are many situations in which children are brought up against overwhelming difficulties, but I don't think it is any part of medicine that we should help create those situations," he said.

Changing the licensing arrangements for fertility clinics would not have directly affected the Allwood case, he said, since she was treated in a private hospital and they do not require licences. But the case illustrated the dangers of allowing patients to dictate their own treatment.

The paternalistic view that doctors should make all the decisions was wrong, he said, but now the responsibility had shifted entirely on to patients. "It appears we are seeing some consequences of totally autonomous decision-making. The Mandy Allwood case illustrates one of the unfortunate corollaries of that position. Yes, the patient was right to make her own decision, the law would support that and the BMA is not opposed to it but it is going to cause her a lot of sadness and unhappiness in the next few days."

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Mandy Allwood show leaves US sceptical

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN television viewers were briefed on the Mandy Allwood saga yesterday in a programme recorded shortly before she lost three babies.

Ms Allwood, her partner Paul Hudson, and her publicist Max Clifford, appeared for an hour, via satellite, on the mid-morning *Rolonda* chat show. Ms Allwood, who struggled to her feet to give viewers a better view of her stomach, claimed that she was in better health than many had suggested. She attacked the "spiteful people" who have criticised her for choosing to go ahead with the pregnancy and signing a deal with the *News of the World*.

She was frustrated by the image that people had of her. "You're getting the wrong

picture of us. It is totally incorrect," she said after the programme dwelt on her pact with the tabloid, and on the apparent instability of her relationship with the babies' father.

She claimed doctors had told her she was in better shape than many women carrying single babies.

However, one woman in the audience accused Ms Allwood of being a "serial breeder" and others booed when the show's presenter mentioned that the couple were not married. A measure of support came from some America-based cousins of Mr Hudson in the audience. One, identified only as Shirley, said: "It's the will of God. Mandy is bringing life into the world."

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'Just mouth the words 'Five more Tory years' and feel your senses and reason repulsed'

We are back as the people's party, says Blair

This is an edited text of Tony Blair's speech.

This year, we meet as the Opposition. Next year, the British people will, we will meet as the new Labour government of Britain.

"A chance to serve, that is all we ask" — John Smith's final words from his final speech the night before he died. At the time of the next election, there will be just 1,000 days until the new millennium. 1,000 days to prepare for a 1,000 years.

How do we create, in Britain, a new age of achievement in which all of the people not just a few can share? I want to lead Britain into this age of achievement and today I set out how.

Has there ever been a government in our history that has put itself before the British people with less to merit its re-election? Just mouth the words: "Five more Tory years," and feel your senses and reason repulsed. The tax cutting party that gave us the biggest tax rise in peacetime history. The law and order party that doubled crime and gave us a Home Secretary in court more often than the people he's supposed to be locking up. The farmers' party that gave us BSE. The party that set up the Scott Report, then when it found ministerial deceit just ignored it and would have got away with it but for the brilliance of Robin Cook. And then Nolan. Cash for questions. And this morning, more revelations.

The Tories changed the law to let Mr Hamilton put his case. We will change the law to make the Tories clean up their act. To coin a phrase, we will be tough on sleaze and tough on the causes of sleaze. We will ask the Nolan Committee to investigate political funding and we will legislate so as to make the Tories tell us where their money comes from for their negative and deceitful advertising campaigns.

If John Major wants to be seen as an honest man, let him fight an honest campaign. This Prime Minister so weak, so utterly incapable of stamping his authority on the Government, he nominally leads that he has given birth to the first "ism" in politics to denote not the existence of a political philosophy but the absence of one. Majorism: holding your Party together while your country falls apart.

The Tories never did have the best vision for Britain. They just took the best words: freedom, choice, opportunity, aspiration and ambition. I can vividly recall the exact moment that I knew the last election was lost. I was canvassing in the Midlands on an ordinary, suburban estate. I met a man polishing his Ford Sierra. He was a self-employed electrician. His Dad always voted Labour, he said. He used to vote Labour too. But he'd bought his own house now. He'd set up his own business. He was doing quite nicely. "So I've become a Tory," he said.

He wasn't rich. But he was doing better than he did, and as far as he was concerned, being better off meant being Tory too. In that moment, he crystallised for me the basis of our failure, the reason why

BLACKPOOL



a whole generation has grown up under the Tories. But that was never our history or our purpose. In 1945, when miners voted Labour, they did it so that their sons would not have to go down the pit as they had. And in 1964 their children voted Labour because they saw the next generation's chance to go to university and do better than their parents had done. The true radical mission of the Labour Party — new and old — is not to hold people back but to help them get on. First get the fundamentals right.

Labour will be the party of sound finance and good housekeeping. World interest rates and inflation rates are low. In Britain, under Labour we will keep them this way. These will be defined targets set and kept to. Losing control of

Our radical mission is not to hold people back, but to help them to get on

public finance isn't radical, it's just reckless. Gordon Brown is the Iron Chancellor. They say it's easier to get past security at our conference without a pass, than get a spending commitment past Gordon. And that's how it will stay.

We need a tax regime that is fair, and encourages work and business. A new Labour government should try to get tax down for low income earners, some of them paying 80 or 90 per cent marginal tax rates. If incentive through lower rates is the key for directors on £200,000 a year, why shouldn't it work for the people on £5,000 or £10,000.

Next, in this new world, many more people will be self-employed or in small business. We are going to help them. We will give Britain a modern integrated transport network, built in partnership between public and private finance and restoring a unified system of railways with a publicly owned, publicly accountable BR at its core.

Europe: Leading Britain into an Age of Achievement means Britain leading in Europe. And for business and for Britain, we will build a new constructive relationship

within Europe. Let me make it plain. I will not scrap Britain's veto in Europe. (That's a Tory lie.)

Our options on a single currency should remain open, to be determined according to our national interest. Any change will only come with the full consent of the people. But make no mistake. Leave Europe or retreat to its sidelines and this country will lose its influence and inward investment. Britain has the Presidency of the EU in the first half of 1998. Today I set a deadline: June 1998, the end of the British Presidency, for the completion of the single market. And I will begin discussions with other European leaders now — in opposition — so that we can be ready to meet that deadline.

Industry: The Labour government is not the political arm of anyone today other than the British people. Let us settle these arguments about industrial laws once and for good. There will be no return to the 70s. But there should and will be basic civil rights for all at work, legislated on early in a Labour government.

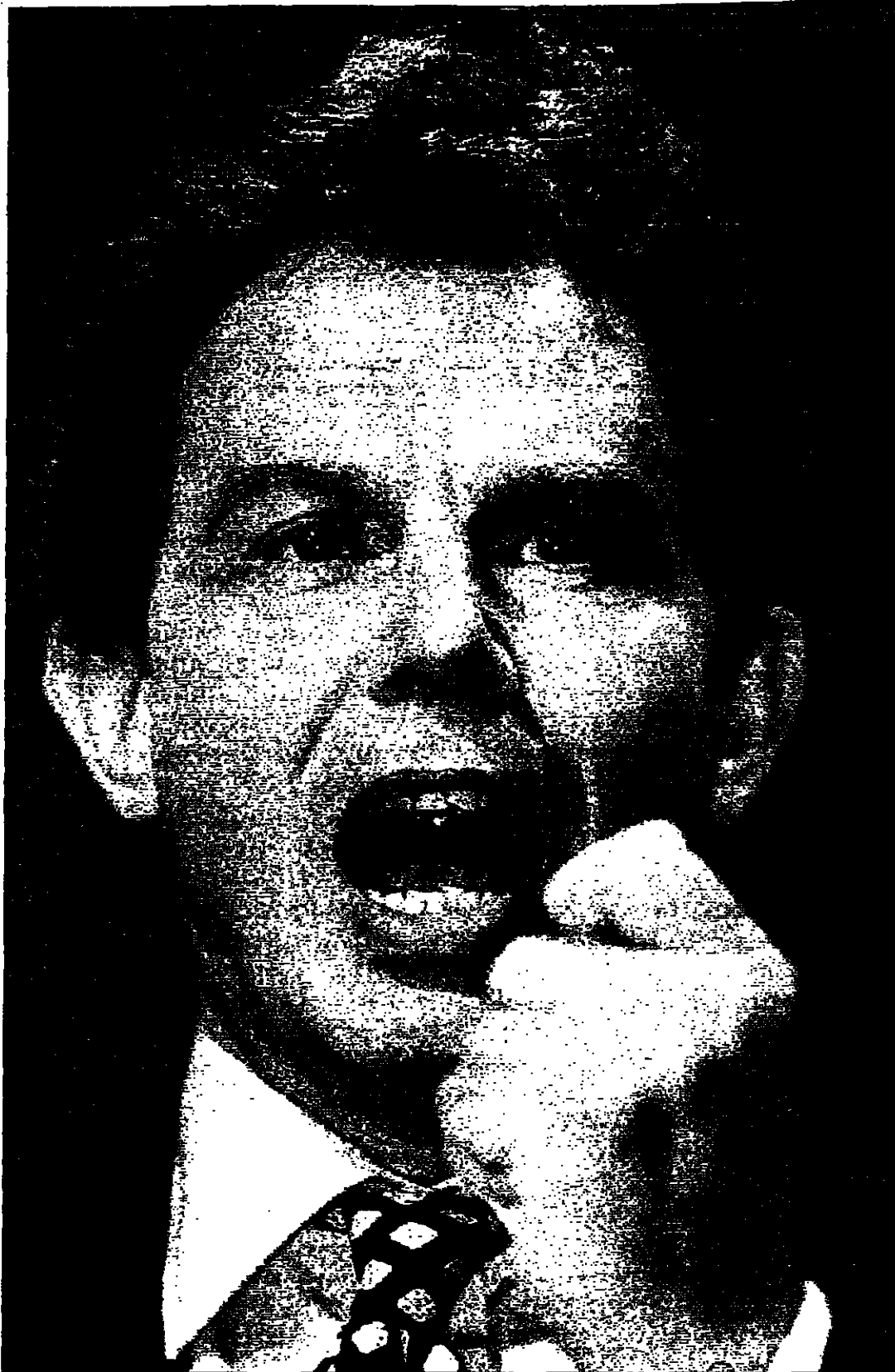
A statutory national minimum wage. Like every other industrial country the world over, Britain will be a right for any individual to join a trade union and if a majority of the workforce want it, for the union to represent them. And on GCHQ I have made a personal commitment to those people to restore their union rights in full and I will keep it.

Forget the past. No more bosses versus workers. You are on the same side. The same team. Britain united. And we will win.

Education: Ask me my three main priorities for Government, and I tell you: education, education and education. We are 35th in the world league of education standards — 35th. At every level, radical improvement and reform. No to vouchers... Yes to nursery places. Tomorrow David Blunkett will set out how to ensure that every primary school child leaves school able to read to adequate standard. I announce that we want to establish three week intensive literacy summer schools with the aim of ensuring that every 11 year old is up to standard in reading.

The Tories choose to spend more than £100 million on the assisted places scheme to subsidise a small number of children at private school. That money will be phased out. That money will be used to make sure that every 5, 6, 7-year-old is in a class of 30 or under. No return to the 11-plus. The comprehensive system will stay, modernised for today's world, taking account of children's different abilities. Continual assessment. Targets set. Instant action where they're not met. There should be zero tolerance of failure in Britain's schools. I want a state education system in Britain so good, so attractive, that the parents choose to put behind us the educational apartheid of the past, private and state.

Computers: The Age of Achievement will be built on new technology. Last year, I announced an



Tony Blair rousing the conference delegates with his speech yesterday

agreement with BT to cable up schools, colleges, universities and libraries to the information superhighway for free. So we've got the wires. We've got the low cost connections. Now you need more hardware, the computers themselves. What matters in the end though, is the educational material that comes down those cables, into those computers and into the mind of the child. Just as schools have to buy books, they will pay for the various courses and services on offer. But we will make sure the quality is high. Competition will ensure the prices are low. And in

Government we will be inviting bids for a franchise to provide the specialised education network.

Our aim is for every school to have access to the superhighway, the computers to deliver it and the education programmes to go on it. With the University for Industry for adult skills, this adds up to a National Grid for Learning for Britain.

Achievement: We will provide opportunities for those without it. As a first step, we will implement a programme to take 250,000 young people off benefit and into work, funded by a one-off windfall levy

on the excess profits of the privatised monopoly utilities. We will put a roof over the heads of the homeless by releasing the money from the sale of council houses to let homes be built once more for those that need them. We will cherish and enhance the environment with policies to ease congestion, reduce pollution and develop our quality of life, in the countryside as much as the cities and towns. We will be tough on the causes of crime but tough on crime too. You saw in that film review of the year the day John Major and I visited Dunblane together. It was a

searing, chilling, dreadful day. I believe we should ban the private ownership and possession of handguns. That is our duty to the people of Dunblane.

We will provide for security in old age. Previous Labour governments did their duty by British pensioners and so will the next Labour government. It will review also the whole issue of community care. But I will not make promises on money until I know that they can be kept.

The next Labour government will scrap the Tory internal market of the NHS and will improve and renew the NHS as a decent public service for all the people. No more hospitals fighting hospitals. No more doctor competing with doctor. No more bogus red tape and expensive bureaucracy. Let us modernise government itself, so it serves the interests of the people. A parliament for Scotland and an assembly for Wales, legislated for in the first year of a Labour government. Achievable precisely because we will have the clear consent of the Scottish and Welsh people before doing it. A directly elected authority for London.

Lottery: I can today make an announcement on our plans for the National Lottery. It has been a great success. But has all the money gone to good causes? We want to fund specific environment, education and public health projects through the proceeds of the National Lottery. I want the people's money to go on the people's

I believe that we should ban the private ownership of handguns

priorities. Equipping all our teachers to use new technology that will improve children's education. Insulating homes. Supporting national talent and potential. Redclaiming public space for pedestrians. The millennium stream of lottery money, one fifth of the total, should be focused on giving Britain a head start in the 21st century and under Labour it will be.

You have helped me transform our party into a great party of reform for the modern age. 400,000 members and growing. A new constitution we can actually quote in our speeches. And yes, we are a democratic socialist party.

It is here now, in this room, as we build around the Labour Party the new force for progress in Britain's politics to bring in the new Age of Achievement for our nation: 1,000 days to prepare for a thousand years. I say to the British people: Have the courage to change now. We are coming home to you. We are back as the people's party, and that's why the people are coming back to us. Labour's coming home.

Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article, page 17

'So much for Marxism — it is now more the party of Methodism'

Tony Blair's main success so far as Labour leader has been reinventing his party; yesterday he succeeded also in inspiring it, and probably also the country. If Labour wins the next election, then yesterday's speech — with its much repeated slogan the "Age of Achievement" — will be seen as symbolically important as Harold Wilson's "white heat of technology" speech of 1963 in setting both the political tone and the goals for a Labour government. But Wilson's disappointing subsequent record raises questions about whether a Blair Government will be able to achieve what he promised. There was much more applause when Mr Blair made new commitments than when he talked about the need for tight control of public spending.

His task was to show where Labour would make a difference — what Blair's Britain would be like. It would be a Christian democracy for the age of Bill Gates.

Labour reinvented for the Age of Achievement

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Mr Blair has an almost Wilsonian enthusiasm for technology — computers in every school and the National Grid for Learning. His vision is of a Britain of two-parent families with the children sitting at computer terminals, happy nurses, fulfilled teachers, no unemployed youngsters on the streets, tough action on young offenders, a revived and clean democracy and Britain at the heart of Europe (where have I heard that before?) And no increase in taxes for ordinary families. He presented Labour as the party of aspiration and of bosses and workers on the same side — so much for Labour's roots in Marxism. It

is now more the party of Methodism.

The ten semi-religious vows provided a focus that was lacking last year. Making such promises is always a risk, as the House Republicans have found in America. The Contract with America was the banner behind which they won control of the House in November 1994, but it is now hardly mentioned given the difficulty of implementing some of the pledges. Mr Blair's speech also had echoes of the "new covenant" with the American people which Bill Clinton proposed when he was running for President four years ago, and then quietly dropped. "Labour's coming home" is reminiscent not only of the theme tune of the Euro 96 tournament but also of

George McGovern's "Come Home America" appeal of his losing campaign of 1972.

The vows also offer ammunition to the Tories, which they eagerly seized in claiming that Mr Blair made 20 spending commitments during his speech. Some are vague or relatively minor, while others, such as limiting class sizes for 5, 6 and 7-year-olds, are supposed to be financed by savings elsewhere. But the Tories have a point. There were also uncosted promises to "put a roof over the heads of releasing money from the sale of council houses".

Mr Blair did give hostages to fortune in promising to increase the proportion of national income spent on education, reduce the proportion spent on the welfare bills

of social failure, reduce spending on NHS bureaucracy and increase it on patient care and cut by over a half the number of young people unemployed. The less elegant sixth commandment — evidently approved, if not crafted by Gordon Brown's Treasury team — is to "keep Government borrowing and inflation within the low and prudent targets we set within the economic cycle". Mr Brown, dubbed the "Iron Chancellor" by Mr Blair, has set spending rules that will severely limit Labour's ambitions.

But the main way that Blair's Britain will be different from now is simply that a new political team will be in charge, with its own style. After what will then be 18 years of one party in office, that will be an enormous change for both Whitehall and Westminster. For most Labour supporters, that will itself herald the Age of Achievement, whatever follows later.

PETER RIDDELL

Lottery rethink to fund social projects

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW POLICIES

TONY BLAIR proposed a big change to the way lottery money is distributed yesterday to ensure that cash is spent on public service schemes rather than projects such as the Churchill papers.

The Labour leader said part of the lottery money which is at present earmarked for millennium projects would be used for a wide range of schemes. They may include children's play facilities, insulating people's homes to cut fuel bills, extra music or sports lessons outside school hours or training teachers in new technology. Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, will publish fur-

ther details of the plan later this year. Mr Cunningham is also looking at ways in which other local environmental, public health or education projects could receive money on top of existing departmental budgets.

Mr Blair also announced a "national grid for learning" where every school and college would be linked to the information superhighway at minimal cost. Last year the Labour leader used his conference speech to announce a deal with British Telecom to start an information technology school network, providing free cables.

Yesterday he said Labour had

reached a new agreement with BT and other cable companies to keep costs low. The grid would be run as a private-public partnership with the Government licensing the provider.

Mr Blair reaffirmed plans to set up summer schools for youngsters with reading difficulties. Under the £30 million scheme 11-year-olds with the reading age of 9 or less would be encouraged to attend summer schools for three hours a day.

Today David Blunkett will give further details about a scheme for "millennium volunteers" which Mr Blair trailed yesterday. The plan will cover 100,000 volunteers aged 18-25 working up to the end of century. The volunteers, some jobless, will be take

part in projects lasting three to six months such as cleaning up the environment and helping the elderly and disabled. Unemployed participants would be eligible for benefit plus £10 a week. Those released by their employers would be paid by them.

Mr Blair also pledged to create a true European single market by June 1998. He argued that barriers to free competition remained and many measures proposed in 1992 had still not been adopted.

He also disclosed plans to streamline Whitehall machinery and local government by improving communication, setting up first stop shops to make benefit distribution more efficient and less exposed to fraud.

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Activists demand more jobs before joining EMU

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR activists warned Tony Blair yesterday against taking Britain into a single currency unless unemployment is first reduced across Europe.

Although the party leadership allowed only a short debate on Europe, delegates passed a motion demanding a "realistic" timetable for joining economic and monetary union, based on higher employment. The call came as the Labour leadership sought to emphasise its commitment to Europe by promising to sign up to the social chapter within months of taking office.

Dick Pickering, from the GMB general union, highlighted concern over the scheduled 1999 start date and was cheered when he said that Labour should press for Britain's delayed entry. "It is time to defer the deadline for a single currency for a few years to give European economies time to complete the recovery."

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said that ending mass unemployment had to be the priority of the European Union. Britain would join the single currency only if European countries commit themselves to that.

"Jobs will be the bottom line by which we judge whether Britain will join any single currency."

Although Labour insists that it will not take a decision until after the general election, and possibly after holding a referendum, the Euro-sceptics in the party interpreted Mr Cook's comments as evidence of the leadership's cooler attitude towards the single currency. Senior figures played down suggestions that Labour was changing its position, saying that Mr Cook had previously made clear that higher employment would be made a precondition of Britain's entry.

Mr Cook outlined what his aides described as "his realistic vision" of a European Union. He balanced his prediction that the single currency would make a single market work better with a warning that Britain would benefit only by competing on level terms.

In a rousing speech he challenged the Tories to fight the general election on European issues. It was time for a fresh start in Europe, he said. A Labour government would sign the social chapter before January 1, 1998, "because Britain cannot be a leading player in Europe when it is lagging behind everyone else in Europe."

He repeatedly emphasised the common interest that Labour had with European governments. The conference was shown video film of the Prime Ministers of Portugal, Austria and the Netherlands wishing Labour success in the general election campaign. Mr Cook challenged John Major: "You try and find three European Prime Ministers who would even dream of sending a message of support to the Tory conference."

He contrasted Labour's commitment to Europe with the Tory party's "crude jingoism", which he said "damages our own society". He went on:

"Once a nation is persuaded that foreigners abroad are a threat, then it is only a short step to believing that minorities at home are a danger. Xenophobia and jingoism are the natural parents of bigotry and discrimination."

"I want a nation that is confident of its own identity and at peace with its neighbours. I want a nation that looks forward with enthusiasm to the world of the future and does not look back in nostalgia to its past."

Mr Cook announced that Labour had appointed Sir Michael Butler, a former ambassador to the European Union and adviser to Tory and Labour Prime Ministers, as its special envoy to consult potential new members of the Union. The appointment, he said, was evidence of Labour's commitment to expansion of the European Union.

Letters, page 17



Glenys Kinnock, left, Barbara Follett, centre, and Helen Southworth, a parliamentary candidate, at the debate

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

Short seeks return of quotas for women

CLARE SHORT yesterday signalled the return of the quota system for Labour's women candidates after the general election.

Ms Short argued that positive discrimination was the only way to increase women's representation at Westminster despite Tony Blair's earlier opposition. The party spokesman for overseas aid congratulated women delegates who had demanded fairer representation calling it the "biggest modernisation of all". Delegates backed a

motion reaffirming a target of half the Parliamentary Labour Party being women within ten years or three general elections. They also ensured that Labour members of a new

Scottish parliament, a Welsh assembly and English regional chambers would have equal numbers of men and women.

Ms Short said the party's policy of women-only shortlists in some parliamentary seats, which was dropped after it was ruled illegal, had been a success. She added that many other countries had used quota systems.

IN BRIEF

Socialist Worker is barred

Socialist Worker has been denied a conference press pass. An activist for the magazine, June Threadgold, said that Labour did not want any criticism in the run-up to the general election. A party spokesman said there had to be a limit to the number of press passes "and unfortunately this year *Socialist Worker* fell off the end".

£1m donation

A £1 million donation to the party's election fighting fund from the Victory Appeal Fund of Affiliated Trade Unions was announced to delegates. It follows £1 million last month from Matthew Harding, the businessman and co-owner of Chelsea Football Club.

Today's business

Morning: David Blunkett on Education. Afternoon: John Prescott on Operation Victory, Labour's strategy to win the general election. Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, versus Baroness Castle of Blackburn on Labour's plans for pensions.



Cook: Labour will make fresh start in Europe

An appeal to the best that should lure real Tories

MARGARET THATCHER once said that politics was about the very good and the very bad in human nature. Tony Blair appealed yesterday to the best of the Labour tradition and the best instincts of the British people.

He renewed the vows of Labour to the marginal, the powerless, the disenfranchised. No one hearing him could doubt the depths of his personal commitment to leading Britain out of the inequality, division and injustice that now so disfigure it.

He made clear his belief in the benign possibilities of the State and his frustration at our capacity for collective responsibility starved of expression. He made his party happy. Will Tories, too, respond to Blair's political appeal? For those Tories who

the disadvantaged. It believes in everyone being able to get on.

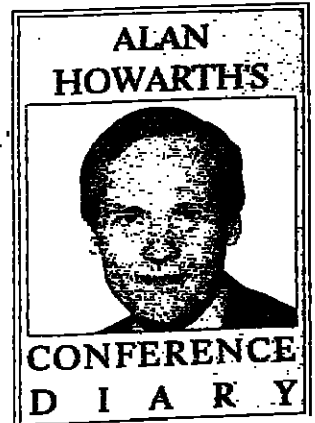
A generous reference was made to me. The fact is that a year ago I could not but respond to the blend of commonsense and decency, the healing and renewal of the nation that Tony Blair offers. A party of sound finance and good housekeeping. A leader who speaks the language of the covenant. Could Margaret Thatcher forbear to cheer?

Delegates from time to time tell Labour conferences how angry they are. I'm angry when people slag off Blackpool landladies. Last year I cancelled my booking for Blackpool after hearing John Prescott apostrophise one-nation Labour in Brighton. This year I was greeted without reproach. "You've turned up this time, Alan. Just as well. You're welcome."

The real politics is happening in Blackpool quite apart from the conference. Feeling is running high among Blackpool landladies about the colonisation of the boarding houses by unscrupulous exploiters of DSS benefit payments. Homeless people are being packed in and fat fortunes are being made. Monday night's meeting of the Blackpool borough council planning committee was, by the vivid account given to me, not a cosy experience.

In Sybil Disraeli describes working breakfasts as an innovation on the part of restless Liberals. I joined the Labour Party, and I find it a prodigious effort to get to pressure group breakfasts far along the front at 8am. The prunes, croissants and coffee would not of themselves have vindicated the journey to the Child Poverty Action Group's breakfast, but the discussion did. Peter Townsend, who has done more to elevate and educate the debate on poverty than anyone, and Sally Witcher, who embraces real expertise with campaigning flair, instructed half a dozen Labour MPs, to our great appreciation, on policy issues bearing upon children.

Alan Howarth is the Labour MP for Stratford-on-Avon



prefer a leader with some capacity for self-deprecation, he offered that too. This was a speech, in words and body language, of someone assured of his own convictions, and confident that he could enthuse both party and country.

It was a speech to which any Conservative of the Butler and Macmillan years could respond, and many more recent Tory voters too. Blair evoked Britain's greatness, past and to come.

New Labour is tough in its determination to discipline public spending. It sees no virtue in tax for its own sake. It will not tolerate lawless and anti-social behaviour, whether private or public. It will not tolerate poor standards in education or the shame of homelessness. It will govern for all the people, including the disabled and

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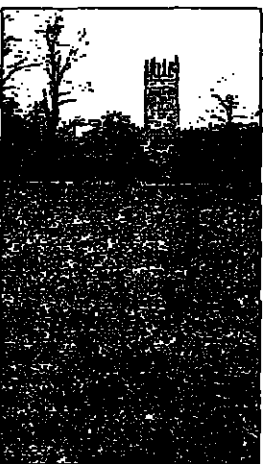
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Independent heads learn of crisis in state schools

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE head of one of Britain's most deprived schools told the country's top independent schools yesterday that the state system was in "meltdown" in the inner cities. Pupils as young as 11 were turning to prostitution and violence to pay for drugs, the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference in Glasgow was told. Dee Palmer-Jones, head of Brackenhow School in Middlesbrough, said pushers gave youngsters drugs on credit and bullied them for payment or sexual favours.

Schools like hers were struggling because they had to act as surrogate families. Half of her pupils were from single-parent families and many did not know their fathers.

Her grim message about life "on the other side of the tracks" was delivered to head teachers from the 250 leading independent schools represented by the HMC, which include Eton, Harrow, Winchester and St Paul's. It was followed by a call for much more time to be spent in the classroom on children's moral and emotional needs.

Tony Evans, chairman of the Conference, said all schools were struggling to cope with rising physical or emotional neglect. He said all head teachers should encourage parents to sign contracts setting out how they would help schools nurture children.

Mrs Palmer-Jones astonished her audience by listing some of the cases dealt with by the counsellor employed at her school, which has 570 pupils.

Although the school was only eight miles from the sea, more than half of her 11-year-old pupils had never seen it until a trip was organised. A family of seven children had one bed, while the others slept on clothes on the floor. Beds had been provided by social services, until the father sold them and moved out.

Mrs Palmer-Jones, a teacher since 1970 and head for four

years, said: "I am not unique. This is typical of the situation faced by heads of schools serving areas of deprivation and the realities of life as experienced by many pupils in our schools. One head, who had been physically assaulted, said 'it is meltdown'."

She said she had contacted dozens of heads in similar schools around the country. "Everyone I spoke to said they felt things were getting worse. They cited the disruptive and defiant behaviour of ever-younger pupils, uncooperative and hostile parents, and concerns about the effects of drugs in the community."

Professor Richard Whitfield, head of an independent think-tank founded by the Duke of Edinburgh, told the HMC that all schools should give 15 to 20 per cent of their curriculum time to teaching "emotional competence" and practical life skills, such as marriage and parenting. Teachers should also receive training to become more "emotionally literate", so they could help with the problems faced by their pupils.

Mr Evans, of Portsmouth Grammar School, who spoke earlier this year of "opulent neglect" of some pupils by parents too busy to spend time with them, added: "Children from whatever background are subject to emotional instability with the disintegration of the family. We are all seriously thinking about ways in which we can attack this problem. Unless we get into a contract with parents and convince them that paying fees is not a substitute for love, their sense of emotional direction will be lost."

David Summerscale, Head Master of Westminster School in London, said he believed teenagers faced increasing pressures, but thought the problems could be addressed by the "personal dynamics" of the staff instead of setting aside 20 per cent of the curriculum to deal with them.



Silver spoon: Britt Ekland expects to receive up to £250 for this holiday snap of her and Sellers, taken in 1960

Ekland auctions letter revealing the jealousy that haunted Sellers

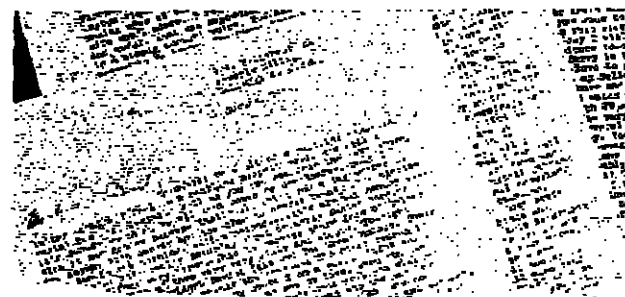
By JOHN SHAW

THE jealousy that racked the late Peter Sellers was disclosed yesterday in a letter he wrote to Britt Ekland shortly after they married in 1964.

The three-page letter is part of a collection of Miss Ekland's property, estimated to fetch £80,000, to be auctioned at Christie's in South Kensington, London, on December 3. The couple divorced in 1969.

In the letter, Sellers describes his feelings while watching a Brigitte Bardot film: "When I looked at Bardot on the screen tonight, she reminded me quite a lot of you. She was with a very handsome French actor and dimming in and out of bed with him. Suddenly it was no longer Miss Bardot, it was you! I was in agony."

After watching *The Great Escape*, Sellers writes: "I was getting deeply engrossed when somebody said, 'Who's that fellow?' Someone else said, 'That's John Leyton'. I



In character: 'I feel in a rambling mispelt mood'

thought, 'John Leyton? He's in the film that my Britt's doing. She kissed him. Oh, but that's nothing, that's just acting'. Then I thought of something an actor once said to me, that he always had to become involved with the women he worked with, otherwise 'it didn't look real enough. The thought of this made me break out into a cold sweat and want to be sick'."

Sellers then tells Ekland: "I've depressed myself getting into a state like this. I really am an idiot. They say all comedians are sad. I wonder if that's true? Still, I'm not

really a comedian. I don't know what I am..."

The letter was sent to Miss Ekland in London while Sellers was filming *Kiss Me, Stupid* in Hollywood. The letter begins by describing his work and his difficulties in escaping from the character he plays. "When I finish at the end of the day's shooting, I try to forget him and his moods. But... he nearly always follows me home and lingers slyly in the back of my mind."

The letter, estimated at between £500 and £800, is among a wealth of corres-

pondence, consisting largely of affectionate notes and telegrams from film sets and hotels in New York and Los Angeles. But it will revive old controversies. Sellers, who died in 1980, took out an injunction to prevent Miss Ekland, 53, from printing his letters to her in *True Britt*, her autobiography.

Miss Ekland, who lives in Los Angeles, said yesterday that she had included the letter in the sale "because it describes the man in all his confusion and passion and professional insecurities much better than any documentary or friends' conversation".

The auction includes many reminders of the lighter side of Sellers. Five telegrams he sent a few days before the letter together spell out the title of a nonsense song and character from the BBC radio comedy series *The Goon Show*, which brought Sellers to fame: the Ying Tong song, signed "love, Bluebottle".

Leading article, page 17

NEWS BRIEF

Firm fined £4,000 over girl's death on slide

A company was fined £4,000 after it admitted making a slide with a design fault that caused the death of a girl aged 3. John Menzies UK Limited, parent company of the Early Learning Centre, which has sold 200,000 of the £69 slides, was also ordered to pay £1,123 costs by Newcastle upon Tyne magistrates for the offence under the 1995 Toy Safety Regulations.

Amy Grieveson died of brain damage caused by lack of oxygen six days after her head became jammed between a metal crossbar and the slide's chute as she played outside her home in Walker, Newcastle, in April.

Army drug tests

Eighteen soldiers face disciplinary action after random tests revealed traces of cannabis and other soft drugs. Twelve men from the Black Watch and six Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders tested positive. About 800 from the regiments were tested.

Halted in tracks

A public track through Captain Mark Phillips's farm on the Gatcombe Park estate in Gloucestershire has been re-routed. Magistrates in Cirencester accepted the county council's view that there was no need for a right of way to pass through farm buildings.

Uranium claim

Blue Circle launched a multi-million-pound damages claim in the High Court against the Atomic Weapons Establishment. It claims it is unable to sell a 137-acre estate next to the AWE plant at Aldermaston because of contamination by plutonium and uranium.

£2m birth award

Penny Murfin, 17, of Aughton, near Sheffield, who suffered brain damage when starved of oxygen during birth, won £2.25 million in the High Court. The award against Rotherham Health Authority is thought to be a record for infant medical negligence.

'Ally Pally' listed

Alexandra Palace in north London, built between 1868 and 1873, has been added to the Grade II list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Despite fires in 1873 and 1980, 65 per cent of the original fabric of the "People's Palace" survives.

Young burglars

Two boys aged four and five have been caught breaking into a house. They were found by a woman when she returned to her home in Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester, after work. The boys were interviewed by police and taken home.

Fire inquiry

Police are investigating a blaze that severely damaged the roof and front of the Royal Opera House, Scarborough. Eight firefighting crews that were called out were hampered because the building had become virtually derelict in recent months.

Beeches face axe

Lake District planners have decided to carry out a decision to fell the remaining 54 beeches in Rusland, which they say are dangerous, and replace them with new trees, despite a public campaign to save the stand, a prominent feature of the landscape for 200 years.

Rugby trial date

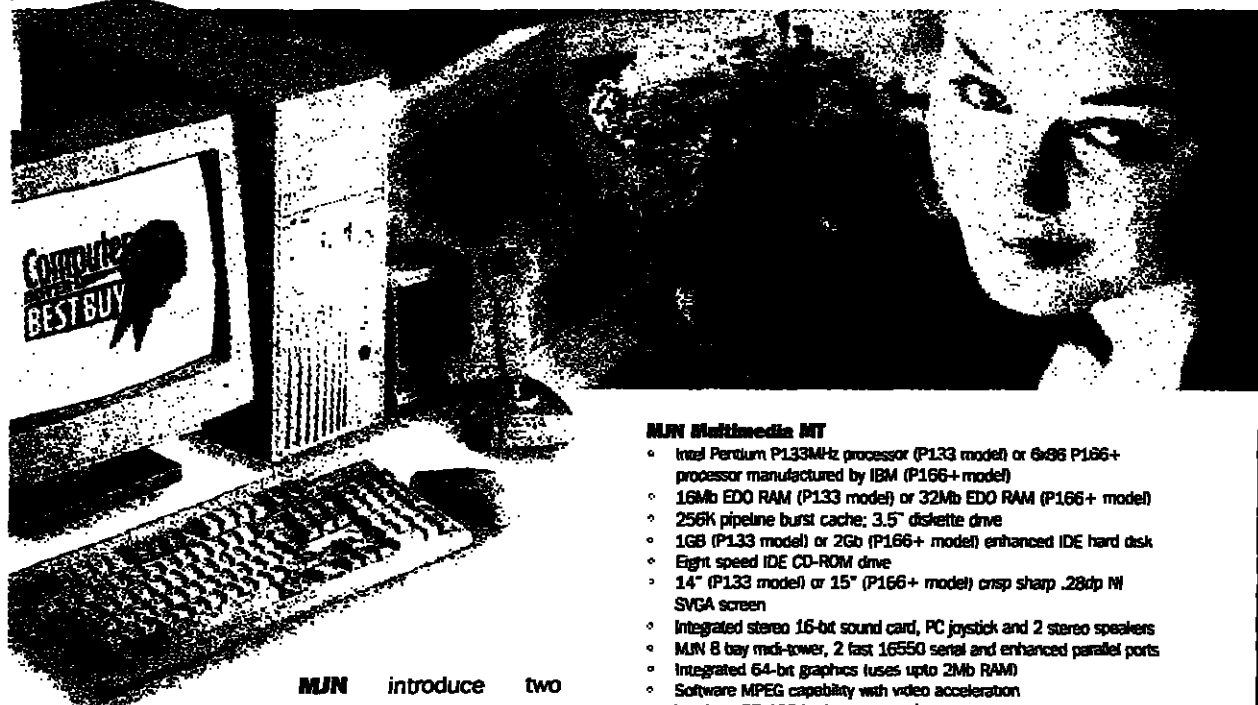
Jack Robinson, the chairman of Wigan rugby league club, pleaded not guilty to attempting to pervert the course of justice over an alleged bogus transfer deal. Mr Robinson, 54, was remanded on bail by Bolton Crown Court until his trial, set for March 10.

Home of the hits

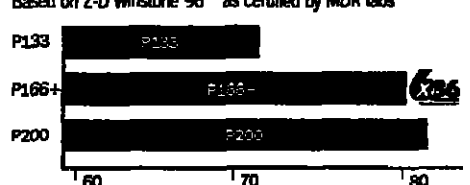
The National Trust is seeking planning permission to open Paul McCartney's childhood home to tourists. The trust bought the terraced house in Allerton, Liverpool, last year. McCartney and John Lennon wrote *I Saw Her Standing There* and *Love Me Do* there.

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Victims of breast cancer 'denied life-saving drugs'

FROM JEREMY LAURANCE,
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT,
IN ISTANBUL

THOUSANDS of women with breast cancer are being denied drugs that could save their lives by lazy specialists, a leading breast surgeon said yesterday.

Margaret Ghilchik, director of the breast unit at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, said the failure to give chemotherapy immediately after surgery could explain Britain's poor record on breast cancer survival, which is among the worst in the West with 13,000 deaths annually.

Many specialists wrongly treated the cancer as a local disease, with surgery and radiotherapy, instead of recognising that it affected the whole body. Mrs Ghilchik said, Chemotherapy, which clears the body of any tumour "seeds", was given to fewer than half of women after surgery, she said.

She blamed "lazy" surgeons and radiotherapists who relied on prescribing tamoxifen, which mimics the hormone oestrogen, instead of anti-cancer drugs. She said that tamoxifen was ineffective in

A vaccine against multiple sclerosis has shown promising trial results in America. Of 17 patients given the vaccine, six developed clinical evidence that it was working and showed no deterioration over a year. Of the others, ten worsened, as did a further six patients given a placebo. The researchers, in Portland, Oregon, are encouraged, but say a bigger study is needed.

many women. Chemotherapy involved extra work, with patients required to attend six sessions in hospital at three-week intervals.

There are 25,000 new cases of breast cancer in Britain each year. A third occur in pre-menopausal women in whom the disease is most aggressive and chemotherapy of greatest benefit. Studies in the United States show it can improve survival rates in younger women by 30 per cent.

Speaking at the British Medical Association's annual clinical meeting in Istanbul, Mrs Ghilchik said: "Women

don't die of local disease, they die of metastases [secondary tumours throughout the body]. I feel very strongly women that should have whole-body treatment."

"The reason our survival figures are worse in Britain is because we have not given chemotherapy at the proper time, immediately after surgery, to wipe out the spread. It is easy to prescribe tamoxifen and surgeons and radiotherapists feel that they are adding something when they do. But what they add is often inappropriate. In younger pre-menopausal women, tamoxifen has no effect."

Mrs Ghilchik said surgeons had been trained to perform mastectomies or to remove lumps from the breast and radiotherapists had been trained to shine X-rays on patients' scars. "Neither is looking at the biology of the disease. They should have given chemotherapy to cleanse the body of tumour seeds, which can be lodged everywhere."

Chemotherapy was appropriate for all women with breast cancer except those at the earliest stage with very small tumours, she added.

Marooned Frenchman stole yacht to see pregnant lover

By TIM JONES

A FRENCH trawlerman left behind in Ireland after drinking too much Guinness stole a yacht and wrecked it off the Cornish coast as he tried to sail home.

Yvan Renaud, 22, was desperate to return to his girlfriend, who is three months pregnant, after he woke up in the fishing port of Dunmore East, Co Waterford, to discover that his colleagues had sailed without him.

M Renaud commandeered the 22 ft *Skagerrak* and set sail in heavy seas. Without a map, compass, radio or food, he was blown off course by gale-force winds and ran aground on rocks at Thorn's Beach, near Crackington Ha-

ven, Cornwall. As the sea smashed the £5,500 yacht, M Renaud staggered ashore with a sprained ankle and limped to a holiday cottage nearby. The occupants called the police.

Officers decided that he had committed no crime in Britain and took him to Ray Lilley, a guesthouse owner who speaks French. Mr Lilley said: "I think he is lucky to be alive because he did not have a clue what he was doing or where he was."

"He had lost everything including his ID card and passport. All he had were the clothes he was wearing. He was quite desperate to get home because his girlfriend

in France is three months pregnant."

After giving him a meal, Mr Lilley took his guest out for a drink to celebrate his first visit to England. He then drove M Renaud to Plymouth and put him on a ferry to Roscoff, the port in north-west France where his girlfriend was waiting with documents to prove his identity.

Mr Lilley said: "I did buy his ticket and he promised to send me the money. I am a great believer in human nature."

Irish police have decided that it would be too expensive to extradite M Renaud to face charges.

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Islamic conquerors keen to dispel image of fanaticism in attempt to win world recognition

Taleban poised for battle to eliminate forces of warlord

THE seemingly invincible Taleban army, now in control of three-quarters of Afghanistan, reached the mouth of the Panjshir Valley in northeastern Afghanistan last night for a decisive battle with thousands of ousted government forces. Huge armoured forces of tanks and artillery face each other in the shadows of the Hindu Kush.

Ahmed Shah Masood, military chief of the toppled regime, has filled dozens of warehouses with munitions in his Panjshir stronghold — enough for a prolonged battle, assuming he can prevent the disintegration of his demoralised army. It already seems to be splitting. Once winter snow blocks the mountain passes he will be trapped.

"We have decided to remove Masood from Panjshir," Shir-mohammad Stanekzai, the Taleban spokesman on foreign policy, declared. "If he remains there, Kabul will not be safe. He can shell the city and target Kabul airport."

He said there was no problem with the Uzbek warlord of the north, General Rashid Dostum, who has perhaps 20,000 men under arms and controls five or six provinces. The remark suggests that a last-minute deal has been struck in Afghan fashion between two apparently irreconcilable foes. But it could be a ruse to make General Dostum drop his guard.

Taleban has consistently declared its hatred of General Dostum, a former Communist commander, and war between



Christopher Thomas in Kabul says that the triumphant student army is sweeping north for the final showdown

them could still occur in due course. With Mr Masood apparently doomed, General Dostum is the only big obstacle to uniting Afghanistan under the Taleban flag.

Taleban, or "religious students", is trying to shed its extremist image and allay fears that it will export Islamic fanaticism to central and southern Asia. It pledged yesterday to restore basic women's rights, to fight international terrorism and to move quickly to instal a government chosen by the people.

"We seek friendship with the world," it declared.

Mr Stanekzai appealed for international recognition. The old Government no longer existed and Burhanuddin Rabbani, the ousted President, was in hiding. Taleban wanted friendly relations with the United States and would seek international aid to rebuild the country after 17 years of war.

It wanted the three million refugees in Pakistan and Iran to return. Girls' schools would soon be allowed to reopen and women who had been banned from holding jobs outside the home would be allowed to return to work once dress codes had been clarified. The high court would be asked to determine what was an appropriate form of dress and whether women would have to cover their faces. "The burqa is compulsory," he said.

Mr Stanekzai announced that women doctors and nurses were being allowed to return to work immediately. It would take time to prepare government and private offices for women workers — a remark that appeared to suggest that Taleban will insist on separation of the sexes at workplaces. His pledge that girls' schools would be reopened is questionable, given that there are still no functioning girls' schools in the southern city of Kandahar, ruled by Taleban for two years.

Mr Stanekzai insisted that Taleban had not ordered the deaths of former President Najibullah and his brother, who were killed last week. Their bodies were put on public display for two days, hanging by the neck.

"Our country was destroyed under Najibullah. It was difficult for people to tolerate his presence. He was hanged for his past crimes," he said. "It is not our policy to execute people without trial but this happened before our shura [ruling council] came to Kabul. The people hanged him."



An Afghan refugee family waits for a text to be issued at a camp near Peshawar, Pakistan. About 10,000 have fled across the border in the last two weeks



Holy army bolsters heroin trade

By MICHAEL DYNES

ALTHOUGH pledged to spread the word of Allah throughout Afghanistan, Taleban has become the main guarantor of the lucrative heroin trade to Europe — in violation of the Koran.

Afghanistan is now the source of almost half the world's heroin, worth millions of pounds a year. The country's poppy harvest first bloomed on a significant commercial scale during the bitter struggle against the Soviet occupation. The Mujahidin, with American blessing, ran the country's poppy crop, and used it to buy arms.

Mullah Muhammad Omar, the one-eyed Islamic crusader who led Taleban to victory in Kandahar, Herat and Kabul, originally swore to cleanse the country of the "poisoned poppy". But holy wars are expensive, and it was not long before Taleban had given the annual poppy crop its blessing — they levy a 10 per cent tax on the crop, whereas in neighbouring Iran growers and traffickers are summarily executed.

Court gives go-ahead for Elysée bugging inquiry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A PARIS appeals court has given the go-ahead for a full legal investigation into the illegal wire-tapping of politicians, journalists, lawyers and artists by a presidential anti-terrorist unit in the 1980s.

The so-called "Elysée eavesdropping affair", in which at least 150 people were allegedly bugged between 1983 and 1986, is the most explosive scandal left over from the Socialist Government of the late President Mitterrand.

President Chirac's Government is believed to be opposed to an investigation into the case, which would help to tarnish the Socialists but might also draw attention to similar activities under his new Gaullist administration.

Earlier this year, the Paris prosecutor abruptly ordered Jean-Paul Valat, the investigating magistrate, to drop the case, arguing that a three-year

statute of limitations had expired. But on Monday an appeals court ruled that the statute of limitations ran to ten years from the moment the alleged victims learned of the wire-taps, not when they were put in place, the court ruled.

Six former Mitterrand officials, including Gilles Ménage, his former chief of staff, and Louis Schweitzer, now head of the Renault motor company, have already been placed under formal investigation.

Another suspect, Pierre-Yves Guezou, a police officer, has since committed suicide. The wire-tapping operation was revealed three years ago by the *Liberation* newspaper.

Targets allegedly included Jean-Edern Hallier, a writer who threatened to reveal the existence of Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter and his mistress, Anne Pingeot, whose telephone was also tapped.

According to a recent book, no less than 128 journalists and 30 lawyers were bugged, as well as such celebrities as the Aga Khan and Carole Bouquet, an actress.

An official panel earlier this year said up to 100,000 telephones were illegally bugged each year in France, many by government agencies. Under French law, wire-tapping is legal only when approved by a judge to protect economic or scientific secrecy or when national security is threatened, as in cases of terrorism.

None of the targets bugged by the anti-terrorist unit at the Elysée, which has since been disbanded, met these criteria.

Italians angered by Chirac slight

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIAN officials expressed fury yesterday with both France and Spain over suggestions that Italy's last-minute attempt to meet the Maastricht criteria on monetary union was doomed to failure.

President Chirac of France yesterday declared bluntly that Italy had no hope of being in the "first wave" of countries joining the single currency in 1999 despite its bold 1997 deficit-slashing budget, adopted last weekend in the face of business opposition. Later M Chirac, due to meet Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, at a summit in Naples tomorrow, tried to make amends, saying the budget had shown Italy was "determined to do everything to be in the first wave". He added: "And I ardently hope it will succeed."

However, the French Ambassador to Italy, Jean-Bernard Merimée, was summoned to the Prime Minister's office to explain M Chirac's comments — a diplomatic reprimand. Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the French leader had no right to interfere and that his remarks were "a serious matter, because our country has made exceptional efforts to enter Europe".

Italy had been pushing discreetly for a delay in the single currency timetable to allow for its economic adjustments, but the centre-left Prodi Government reversed its position late last Friday, adopting the drastic budget. It includes a one-off "Eurotax", which the Government hopes Italians will pay out of patriotism.

Spain is also sceptical about Italy's ability to make the front rank. José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, said Signor Prodi had said last week that the two countries should walk "hand in hand", but he made clear that Spain was not interested and would "be there right at the start".

Russian defence chief pleads for cash

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE Russian armed forces are so underfunded that they are losing their battle-worthiness and impoverished soldiers may soon be reduced to selling weapons, Igor Rodionov, the Russian Defence Minister, said yesterday. General Rodionov used his first press conference since his appointment in July to appeal to President Yeltsin for more defence funds.

He said the present allocation of 98.7 trillion roubles (£11.7 billion) was only a third of what was required. The minister's plea was part of a struggle between the security

wing, headed by General Rodionov and Aleksandr Lebed, the national security adviser, and civilian ministers, who are suspicious of closed sections in the military budget and the army's recently acquired reputation for corruption and theft.

The cry for help appeared to be paying off yesterday when Mr Yeltsin told Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, to convene a special Cabinet meeting on the issue. General Rodionov said more than 110,000 soldiers, many of them withdrawn from Eastern Europe, do not have proper housing and whole units are losing their combat capabilities.

Communist has his hair restored

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A LURID blond wig, with ringlets reminiscent of Harpo Marx, was restored to its aged Communist owner yesterday in a ceremony in Madrid that was both bizarre and comic.

The wig, believed to have been made by Picasso's hairdresser, had been worn 20 years ago by Santiago Carrillo, then leader of the banned Spanish Communist Party, as a disguise to evade the Spanish police and Civil Guard. Señor Carrillo, now 81, was then one of the country's most wanted men.

After 38 years in exile, spent mostly in France, Señor Carrillo slipped back into Spain early in 1976, a few months after Franco's death. He eluded the police for almost a year, addressing hundreds of clandestine Com-



Carrillo: bereft of the ringlets that saved him

munist meetings around Spain, and concealing himself under a mass of blond locks. His Pimpernel's luck, however, ran out. On December 22, 1976, he was spotted fully bewigged, and arrested. Señor Carrillo was charged with sedition and jailed. He was freed on bail a week later, after the intervention of King Juan Carlos, but his wig languished for the next two decades in a police safe-deposit box.

Girl thief tortured in Turkey

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

A CAMPAIGN to stop disappearances, extrajudicial killings and the torture of suspects was launched yesterday within Turkey by Amnesty International.

A report by the London-based human rights group, *Turkey, No Security Without Human Rights*, points to the complicity and intimidation of judges, politicians and even doctors, which allow members of the security forces to get away with murder.

Children enjoy little protection from abuse, according to Amnesty. The report cites the case of a 12-year-old girl arrested for stealing bread in Ankara. She was held for five days without access to family or counsel, during which time she was beaten and subjected to electric shocks.

Stoned staff make Cannabis TV go to pot

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

CANNABIS Tel-a-vision (Ctv), an Amsterdam-based TV venture to promote the "positive side" of marijuana use, appears to have gone up in smoke.

Believed to be financed by a group of wealthy cannabis aficionados and soft drug dealers, mainly from the United States, the channel was due to be beamed up from Amsterdam to 37 countries last weekend. But just a few hours before the broadcast deadline for the one-hour pilot

programme, the channel's staff abandoned the project, apparently too stoned to carry on.

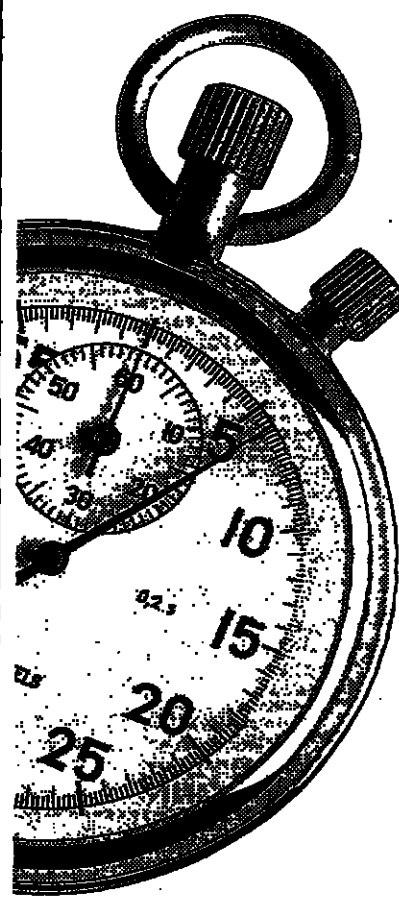
"Cannabis does not cut with work. They had sat around smoking joints and were just too far gone to pull it off," said Barry Noord, whose studio, Amsterdam Television Research, recorded and edited the pilot show.

"The pilot was almost all in the can. There was fashion section on using hemp in textiles. A piece on marijuana's medical applications and news features on people persecuted for smoking the

stuff in other countries." Mr Noord explained.

The channel will now be recast as a broader European one to encompass alternative lifestyles and news, Mr Noord said.

None of Ctv's founders was available for comment yesterday. In a press release earlier, Ctv said it had been set up as a special interest broadcaster to promote the benefits of smoking, eating or drinking cannabis. The channel had also planned a soap opera set in an Amsterdam coffee shop.



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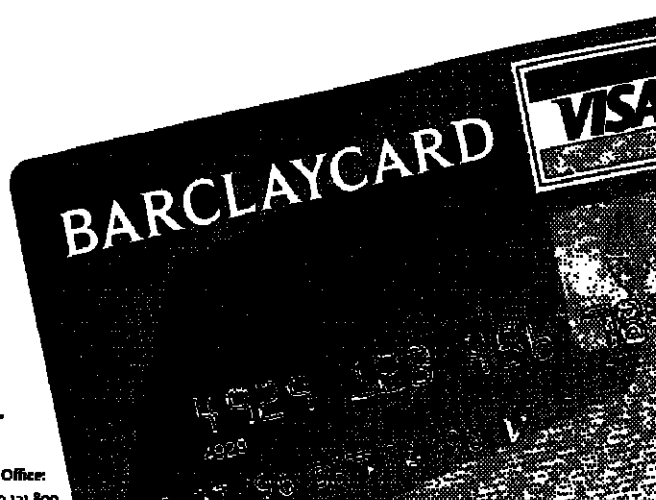
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Europe challenges anti-Cuba laws at world trade body

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

THE European Union yesterday raised the stakes in its dispute with Washington over America's anti-Cuban trade laws by deciding to challenge the action before the new World Trade Organisation.

The move, by the EU's foreign ministers, was a break with the cautious approach adopted last spring when the US Congress angered Europe by passing legislation to punish foreign firms that trade with Cuba. Britain, with its partners, fiercely rejects measures in the so-called Helms-Burton Act that allow US companies to sue foreign companies or individuals deemed to have gained from investments in Cuban property confiscated since the Communist revolution of 1959.

President Clinton has suspended the most controversial measures until January and last month, Jacques Santer,

President of the Commission, said the EU would not start moves to take Washington to a World Trade Organisation arbitration panel until after the American elections.

Senior US officials have been lobbying hard to dissuade Europe from that action on the ground that it would only serve to provoke American sentiment against the multilateral trade organisation, set up last year. Leon Brittan, the Trade Commissioner, rejected that argument yesterday, saying: "What is the use of creating a dispute settlement mechanism for multilateral disputes if you are afraid to use it?"

A WTO panel takes about six months to decide whether a complaint is justified. It can impose sanctions against a country found at fault. States may, however, win exemption if they cite national security as

the motive underlying a policy. The EU action will go to the WTO court on October 16.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, repeated Britain's distaste for the Helms-Burton legislation and a similar Act, drafted by Senator Gus d'Amato, which envisages sanctions against foreign firms trading with Libya and Iran. "The Helms-Burton and d'Amato legislation are the wrong way to go about it," he said. "First it won't work... Second they are wrong in principle."

Britain flatly rejected Washington's attempt to claim "extra-territorial" jurisdiction over foreign enterprises, he said.

The EU ministers also asked the Commission to continue preparing so-called "blocking statutes" legislation that would neutralise the impact of the American law. Britain already has such a law. Mr Rifkind said the question of whether or not the issue went to the WTO before the American elections was irrelevant. "I don't think that the question of elections in the United States... should determine EU policy," he said.

Yesterday's decision reflects growing frustrations in Europe over what is seen as Washington's tendency to act alone on international issues.

Although Mr Rifkind emphasised yesterday that the EU's quarrel with the Clinton Administration is held responsible for a less than co-operative approach to Europe, President Clinton's decision to hold an emergency Middle East summit without European involvement was the latest such action.

Partners "mean": Mr Rifkind criticised Britain's EU partners for lacking "generosity of spirit" after they refused concessions to Jordan over imports of tomato concentrate, the country's most important export.

German car plants crippled by strikes

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

ABOUT 100,000 workers yesterday brought Germany's car industry to a standstill with strikes against cuts in sick-pay.

Mercedes, Opel and Ford were hit hard by the action, which is sure to make an impact on the Government of Helmut Kohl. It has been trying to trim public spending and thus qualify for European monetary union, and has introduced a package that eats away at job security, benefits and sick-leave.

The measures came into force yesterday, but the unions argue that they are still legally protected by wage agreements negotiated last winter. "We will show them what it means to play with us," said Karl Feuerstein, the works council

chief of Mercedes. Herbert Mai, the chairman of the public-service union, made clear that the various unions had found a common cause and were ready to shatter Germany's carefully choreographed social consensus. "For 40 years we have had guaranteed full pay during times of illness," he said. "Now they want to take that away. It has become a symbol of the destruction of the welfare state and the undermining of the wage pact."

The strikes could easily develop into a serious problem for Herr Kohl, who has criticised the big firms for jumping the gun. The unions have already threatened that their action could be similar to the 114-day stoppage in 1956-57.



Elizabeth Dole, in biker gear, rides on stage with Jay Leno, the talk-show host

Dole's wife revs up support

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WHEN she roared on to a Los Angeles stage clad in leather and riding pillion to one of America's foremost talk-show hosts, Elizabeth Dole confirmed that she had abandoned all political subtlety in her attempt to secure the election of her husband, Bob, as President in November.

Sporting a black helmet worthy of a Hell's Angel and a jacket bearing the logo "Bik-

ers for Bob", Mrs Dole leapt on to a large motorcycle with Jay Leno, host of the *Tonight Show*, and said: "Yeah! rev it baby. Let's get out of here."

Later on the set, she continued her skit. "Jay, look at my jacket. I'm a biker from way back," she said. "I've come a long way from Harvard Law School to biker chick."

The act not only demonstrated Mrs Dole's ability to make fun of herself on a show that has relentlessly targeted her husband as too old for

office, it also emphasised the chasm that exists between her campaign style and that of Hillary Clinton. It also punctuated the critical importance of the candidates' wives in this presidential election.

With her husband struggling even in the traditionally Republican states of Florida, Texas and Arizona, Mrs Dole cannot afford the luxury of discretion and is playing a campaign role which can only be compared to that of a presidential running-mate.

Atlanta Olympics supremo runs out of cash and luck

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

TWO months after the Centennial Olympics, Billy Payne, who took the Games to the Southern city of Atlanta, is deep in personal debt and has had difficulty finding work.

Mr Payne, 48, an energetic property lawyer who worked for nine years to stage the Games in his home town, is about \$500,000 (£322,000) in debt to his bank and has spoken of his "post-Games decompression".

He hoped to earn high fees from public speaking engagements, but had to lower his rates owing to the perception in America and abroad that the Atlanta Games were not entirely successful. After the highly publicised computer glitches, transport fiascos and the bomb, few were interested in what he had to say.

There has been none of the national feting and few of the global lecturing invitations enjoyed by his predecessor Peter Ueberroth, who organised the 1984 Olympic Games for Los Angeles. Mr Ueberroth was made *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year", given the coveted job of baseball commissioner, and became a worldwide symbol of brilliant management. Leading businessmen sought his advice and military leaders studied his logistical record.

Mr Payne, who organised an event twice the size of the Los Angeles Games, has been shunned. It is as if America is ashamed of him. Until last week, he did not even have a job, but then came an offer from a friendly Atlanta bank to be a vice-chairman — one of many — involved in "business development", the nebulous sort of role normally reserved for superannuated politicians.

The debt is nothing to worry about, Mr Payne insists gamely. "I didn't do the Olympics to get a reward at the end of the day. I am not ashamed of the debt or burdened by it — it just is what it is." But friends worry that his near shunning by an ungrateful nation will do nothing for his health. He has a history of heart trouble. The post-Games period should have been a time of

high reward and satisfaction for him, but instead there is a sense of dismay and let-down. In the battle to win the Games for Atlanta, he travelled the globe, often at his own expense. He borrowed heavily, and the salary he was paid by the organising committee (\$600,000) seems to have been insufficient.

Andrew Young, the former diplomat and civil rights politician who helped to run the Games, has urged the city of Atlanta to pay Mr Payne a bonus if the Games end up making a profit (accounts are still not final). "I have always felt there is a significant prejudice against Southerners," said Mr Young. "If Billy was a Harvard lawyer instead of a University of Georgia grad, some would think that is worth more."

Bob Brennan, a colleague of Mr Payne, said: "There is considerable feeling here that Atlanta was treated unfairly. By extension that is true of the contribution of Billy Payne."

So, two months after the Games' closing ceremony, Mr Payne is preparing for life in a bank office, taking occasional calls from prospective clients and staring at a far from full diary. The job has little executive clout. "To me, titles don't mean anything," said Mr Payne. But the emoluments will come in useful, at least.

Olympic perk, page 26



Payne: travelled globe at his own expense

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Leading players in Middle East crisis left with little room for manoeuvre

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

COMMENTARY

FOURS before Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, left for the summit in Washington, thousands of Jews sang and danced in Hebron. At the same time the city's Palestinian residents, whose future will be at the centre of the Israeli leader's negotiations with Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, remained sullenly under curfew in their homes.

"Hebron is ours because of our fathers Abraham, Yitzhak and Ya'acov," sang the Hassidic pop

star Mordchai Ben-David to a pulsating beat as the crowd, ferried in by 250 buses, accompanied him with fervour. "From this holy site, we want to send our best wishes to the Prime Minister to stand solid as a rock against the pressure of the Gentiles," Dov Leor, the chief rabbi of the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arab, said.

The rally was condemned by the left-wing Israeli Peace Now movement, which staged a counter-protest in Tel Aviv last night. Those present said they were

demonstrating "against the deteriorating situation and against the Government's alarming policies".

Both rallies, with their diametrically opposed views, symbolised the limited negotiating-table options open to Mr Netanyahu if he is to maintain the unity of the Israeli Jews — sorely tested by the May election — and to bring home a solution acceptable to the Palestinians and to his Cabinet right-wing hardliners.

Natan Shtronsky, the Trade and Industry Minister, who is in the summit team, had announced, before an American news blackout, that it was "doubtful" a de-

cision to redeploy troops from Hebron would win government approval.

A *Maariv* poll, published as discussions in Washington began, showed that 54 per cent of Israeli Jews believed the Government was wrong to open the Temple Mount archaeological tunnel exit last week — the incident that set off the violence — but that 60 per cent were in favour of its being kept open despite Arab insistence that it be closed.

An impressive 79.5 per cent of those questioned backed continuing the teetering Oslo peace process, with only just over 20 per

cent against. Asked who they believed had gained most from the present crisis, 63.5 per cent of Jews in Israel plumped for Mr Arafat.

Like Mr Netanyahu, Mr Arafat's freedom to negotiate is hemmed in, in his case by the nervous mood and fundamental expectations of the 2.2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, many of whom have said they are willing to die in pursuit of a second intifada if demands for implementation of the 1993 Oslo Accords are not met.

Mr Netanyahu's opening gambit made during the flight from Tel Aviv, was to negotiate non-

slop to secure a Hebron pullout deal. It rang hollow with Palestinians who have a long-delayed and internationally recognised accord signed with the Jewish State a year ago pledging an Israeli troop withdrawal from more than 80 per cent of Hebron.

Confirming a hardline trend on Palestinian streets, a Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion poll found that whether or not Mr Arafat deliberately turned his guns on Israel, 33 per cent of his Palestinian public approved, and 69 per cent backed another intifada if nothing else worked.

The columnist Yoel Marcus was

one of many in Israel who said yesterday that Mr Arafat's new-found confidence, and the staunch backing his stand has received in the Arab world, could pose a greater danger to peace than any headline stance by Mr Netanyahu.

Fearing the Palestinian leader would conclude that in any dispute, his soldiers should be given the go-ahead to extract Israeli blood, he added: "Should the Washington summit fail to liberate this theory from Arafat's mind, then it will be time, once and for all, to say farewell to the Oslo Accords."

GREG GIBSON/AP

Clinton summit gives ray of hope to peace efforts

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday launched an emergency White House summit to rescue the Middle East peace process.

He held separate Oval Office meetings with Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, and then called the two men and Jordan's King Hussein together for a group meeting.

The atmosphere was tense, with the Israeli and Palestinian leaders sitting on opposite sofas, but the early signs were hopeful. Officials said Mr Netanyahu approached Mr Arafat and shook his hand just before the group meeting. Mr Clinton said their mere presence showed a "commitment to end the violence and get the peace process going again... We have come a long way in the last three years and no one wants to turn back."

In Jerusalem, Israel's President Weizman made an emotional plea for Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat to put the peace process back on track, warning that "if we don't go the way of peace, we'll get tangled here in a war."

In Cairo, President Mubarak of Egypt said he had decided to boycott the summit to protest against Mr Netanyahu's "intransigence" towards peace and the "obstinate acts of Israel concerning the Palestinians".

Except for a brief photo-opportunity before the group meeting, the White House imposed a news blackout on the talks, but the State Depart-

ment's chief spokesman said the summit's goal could be boiled down to five words: "meet, stop fighting, start talking".

Mr Netanyahu was first into the Oval Office having arrived in Washington on Monday evening. His meeting with Mr Clinton lasted twice the allotted 30 minutes. Mr Arafat arrived in Washington shortly before dawn, having stopped for talks in Cairo and Luxembourg. He snatched a few hours' sleep at a hotel and arrived at the White House an hour after Mr Netanyahu.

President Clinton said he had "good conversations" with both men.

King Hussein arrived late on Monday and met Mr Clinton to discuss ways to facilitate discussions.

After the group meeting, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, was expected to

chair further meetings last night and the various leaders are tentatively scheduled to attend a lunch and joint press conference before leaving Washington today — but only if the summit has gone well.

Mr Netanyahu, asked during the photograph session if he would abide by Israel's existing accords with the Palestinians, replied "absolutely". However he hedged when a reporter asked if he would accept a Jordanian proposal that the Jerusalem tunnel, the opening of which sparked last week's violence, be closed while an international commission studied the issue.

Yesterday's sombre atmosphere contrasted starkly with the euphoria of the last two Middle East summits held at the White House.

Three years ago Mr Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, ended decades of hostility between their peoples with a celebrated handshake on the South Lawn of the White House.

Exactly a year ago the same two leaders signed an historic accord establishing Palestinian control over much of the West Bank.

That euphoria vanished when Mr Rabin was assassinated and his successor, Shimon Peres, was defeated by Mr Netanyahu in May's general election. Mr Netanyahu, seeking greater security guarantees, stalled the peace process and Palestinian frustration erupted into violence last week when the Israeli Government opened the Jerusalem tunnel.



Benjamin Netanyahu, left, arriving at his Washington hotel, and King Hussein in the cockpit of his plane at Andrews Air Force base

Netanyahu is warned over threat to borders

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ON THE eve of the Washington summit, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was warned by the most senior members of his defence and intelligence staff that any fresh Palestinian violence would be likely to spread to Israel's borders with Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Details of the briefing were leaked by the respected *Haaretz* newspaper in Tel

Aviv, which said the warning was presented by a high-ranking officer.

The newspaper said those attending the meeting included Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, the Chief of Staff, Major-General Moshe Yaalon, the head of (Military) Intelligence, and high-ranking members of Shin Bet, the Israeli equivalent of MI5.

Haaretz said the officer who issued the border fighting warning also said "if the summit meeting in Washing-

ton fails, Yasser Arafat [the Palestinian leader] will be likely to order his people to demonstrate again and open fire, and this will lead to a most serious escalation".

Last week's fighting, in which 72 people were killed and nearly 1,500 were injured, included flare-ups along the border at Rafah between Israel and the Gaza Strip and Egyptians patrolling on the other side. Other potential flashpoints, according to diplomatic sources, could be the

border with Egypt close to the Israeli resort of Eilat, and the border running along the Jordan Valley and Israel's troubled northern border with Lebanon.

The Israeli military assessment was being treated seriously by Western security experts who have been monitoring Arab anger against Israel as a result of last week's fighting, the most serious between Israelis and Palestinians since the Six Day War in 1967. "The question is just how

much any clashes between Israel and her Arab neighbours would be restricted to borders only," one envoy said.

According to *Haaretz*, the top-level briefing also established new firing orders for Israeli forces in the event of further Palestinian attacks. "If there will be more bursts of fire towards soldiers in the [occupied] territories, the soldiers have permission to return fire immediately, with the intention of killing, with serious force not used until now."

Crowds in Peking mark birth of nation

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN PEKING

TENS of thousands of Chinese braved chill rain in Tiananmen Square yesterday to celebrate the founding by Mao Tse-tung of the People's Republic of China 47 years ago.

The country's media emphasised a nationalist theme and its leaders almost seemed to gloat over their control of Tibet, despite the international celebrity of the exiled Dalai Lama.

A new portrait of Mao was mounted overnight across the front of Peking's Tiananmen Gate, from the rostrum of which he proclaimed on October 1, 1949: "The Chinese people have stood up."

Across the vast square, in front of his mausoleum, there was a picture of Sun Yat-sen, the father of modern China, flanked by two red lanterns symbolising the return of Hong Kong to Peking control on 30 June next year.

A heavy presence of police and plainclothes men was present and the square — scene of the violent suppression of pro-democracy protests in June 1989 — was festooned with red flags and huge floral displays. At one point, police led away three young men.

Students in the capital have been complaining of heavy-handed police surveillance at places where they meet, and



Sun Yat-sen's picture in Tiananmen Square yesterday

gatherings of more than a few people have been broken up, though foreign hotels have been left alone.

There was no sign of China's senior leader, the ailing Deng Xiaoping, 92, and there was only light security in the small street where he lives behind the Forbidden City, suggesting he was not at home.

But China's two de facto leaders, Jiang Zemin, the President and party chief, and Li Peng, the Prime Minister,

were featured on the front pages of newspapers toasting one another at a reception on the eve of National Day.

To emphasise Chinese rule over Tibet, the *People's Daily* published a front-page picture of Mr Li receiving a white prayer scarf from the six-year-old boy Peking has anointed the 10th Panchen Lama, in opposition to a rival "soul boy" named by the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama's Panchen is believed to be being held in Peking.

Wary Bonn issues Bosnian refugees with notice to quit

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German authorities, dismayed at the huge costs of sheltering Bosnian refugees, were yesterday preparing to send back the first of 320,000 people to an uncertain future in their ruined homeland.

Interior ministers in Germany's 16 provincial states had agreed repatriation would begin yesterday but, battered by criticism from human rights and charity groups, they were reluctant to crowd people on to buses and trains on the first day. Instead "notice to leave" has been served on several thousand refugees who will be ferried back discreetly this month.

There can be no more vulnerable moment for the German image abroad; memories of Nazi deportation still flicker in many countries and any suggestion of force or pressure will rebound badly. Yet the arithmetic is compelling: so far the war has cost Germany (about £7 billion), the bulk of which has gone towards upkeep and schooling.

There are disturbing reports from within Germany: a teenager and an elderly man have attempted suicide in hostels; a third, middle-aged, man succeeded in killing himself. In the Fritzdorf refugee centre outside Bonn, the atmosphere is fraught with tension. Some inhabitants of the prefab blocks — in a field far

away from the village centre — have made reconnaissance trips home.

"Earlier this year," says 17-year-old Samela Hubic, a bright Sarajevo girl, "I was sure that it was better to return to Sarajevo, with all of its problems, than to stay unhappily in the safety of Germany." "Since she is in full-time education she still has a choice — the Germans will be returning single adult males first — but now she is not so certain. "I don't know if there's any point in swapping refugee status in Germany for refugee status in Bosnia."

There may be problems, too, for younger children. Some of those playing cops and robbers at the hostel have been in Germany for four years, speak the language and have German friends.

Paris Louise Arbour, a Canadian judge, took over as Chief Prosecutor at the United Nations war crimes tribunals yesterday with the task of bringing to justice those responsible for genocide and crimes against humanity in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda (Ben Macintyre writes).

Mrs Justice Arbour said the tribunals were "the most important chapter in the history of criminal and international humanitarian law" since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials after the Second World War.

Nigerians sing praises of leader

sing praises of leader

Abuja: General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military ruler, celebrated Independence Day yesterday without the traditional military marches. Instead, 1,500 children sang his praises, fueling speculation that he will try to legitimise his power through the ballot box.

In his speech, he announced the creation of six states as part of his plan to restore democracy by October 1998, but made no mention of freeing political detainees or registering opposition parties, disappointing politicians. (Reuters)

Mushrooms kill 92 in Ukraine

Kiev: Wild mushrooms have killed 92 people in Ukraine and put more than 1,000 in hospital in the deadliest mushroom season in years, officials said. Doctors blame economic hardship, which is forcing more and more Ukrainians to gather wild mushrooms for food, then mistake a deadly white mushroom for harmless champignons. (AP)

Secrets of £30m rock uncovered

Bangkok: The world's largest known emerald cluster worth about £32 million was uncovered after experts here removed a thick layer of mica from a large black rock found in Madagascar, locating a group of 127 medium green emeralds weighing 167lb or 380,000 carats. (Reuters)

School for crime

Moscow: A law professor and four of his students have been arrested for attacking and robbing motorists at roadside rest stops near Penza, some 300 miles east of Moscow. Tass reported. (AP)

Skeleton rewrites American history

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AN ANCIENT skeleton unearthed in America's Pacific Northwest has cast doubt on the theory that the New World's first inhabitants were exclusively of Indian stock.

For decades North America's aboriginal peoples have been presumed to be descended from Central Asian and Siberian nomads who migrated across the Bering land bridge between Asia and Alaska during the last ice age. Now it appears a white man walked this way as well.

The complete skeleton of a middle-aged man emerged two months ago on the shores of the Columbia River in Washington state. Identified as Caucasian, the skeleton was at first thought to be of an 18th or 19th century European pioneer, but scientists at the University of California have used carbon dating to conclude that the bones are 9,300 years old.

To confirm the age and ethnicity of the skeleton, scientists agree further tests must be performed — and herein lies a problem. Even though the skeleton was found on land administered by the US Army, elders of a local Indian tribe have laid claim to it and insisted that it be reburied.

Not coincidentally, the Umatilla people reject the theory of a Caucasian presence in their ancestral homeland. Armand Minthorn of the Umatilla Board of Trustees told yesterday's *The New York Times*: "We know how time began and how Indian people were created. The scientists say whatever they want, but they are being disrespectful."

In accordance with current US law on Indian burial sites, the Army has said it will hand over the skeleton to Umatilla elders within 30 days. An "astonishingly rare" find that could prove a treasure trove of information on life in America at the end of the last ice age would then be lost to science.

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Tyson defeated in \$4m legal bout

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS
IN NEW YORK

MIKE TYSON, the world heavyweight boxing champion, accused a jury of racism after he lost a court action against Kevin Rooney, his former trainer.

Mr Tyson, who is black, was ordered to pay \$4.4 million (£2.8 million) to Mr Rooney, who is white. The

boxer was found to have broken an unwritten 1982 promise by his former manager to pay the trainer 10 per cent of his fight winnings.

Mr Rooney, who trained Mr Tyson for his first 35 bouts, asked for \$49 million. He is a gambler, and owes a casino \$750,000. When he was training Mr Tyson he was paid more than \$4 million.

Outside the court in Albany, New York, Mr Tyson attacked the decision of the all-white federal jury as "ridiculous", claiming that the jurors did not like him because he was black and rich.

After the decision, Mr Rooney said: "I showed him you can't just dump me like that." Mr Tyson replied: "If Kevin would have asked me, I would have given him \$4 million."

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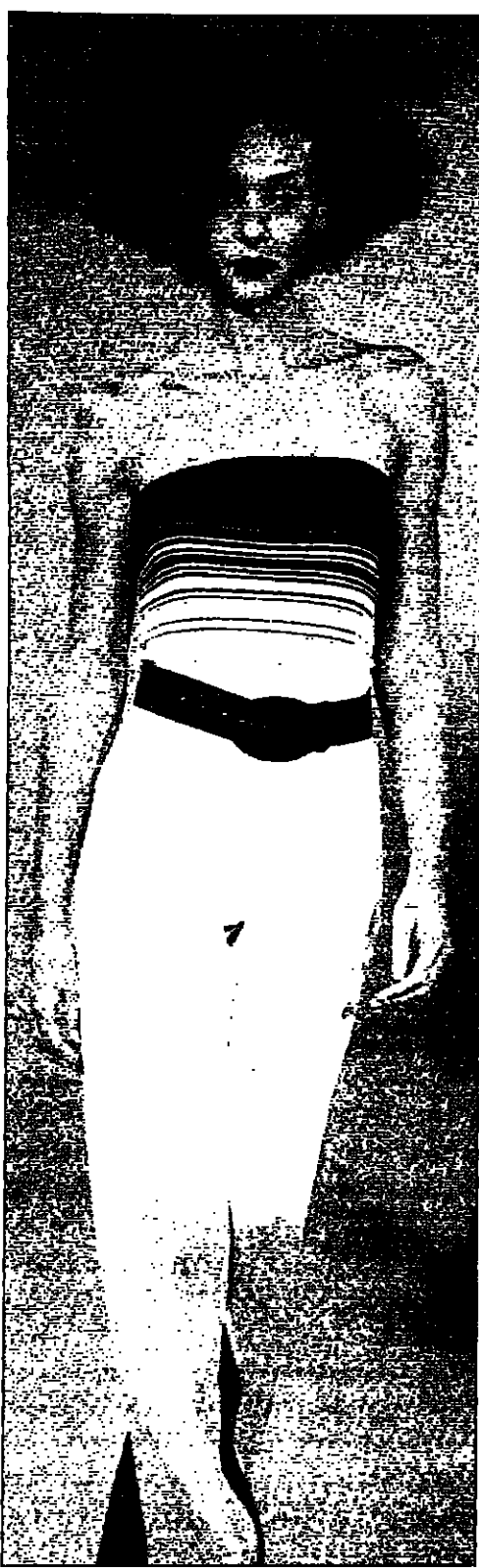


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FRITH: new mood



ROLAND KLEIN: the best yet



ALEXANDER MCQUEEN: anarchy in the United Kingdom from fashion's front-runner

The brouhaha that accompanied this season's London Fashion Week, which came to a close last Saturday evening, was unbelievable. During four days of non-stop catwalk shows (on the hour every hour), the very best of British fashion designers previewed their latest lines for spring/summer 1997. You can probably still hear the applause.

After several years when London looked like fading into the background as Paris, Milan and New York each took their turn in the spotlight, there was a palpable buzz.

No longer are our young designers viewed as flash-in-the-pan fly-by-nights. Instead

they are watched with considerable interest by the international fashion pack and admired for their radical vision.

There are few more rebellious, or far-sighted, than Alexander McQueen. His show was the highlight of the event. An event in itself, McQueen turned the giant Royal Horticultural Halls in Victoria into an indoor swimming pool. His models paraded in a pool of 3in-deep water, 100 metres long and 20 metres wide, which acted as a catwalk. Wearing clear Perspex wedge-heeled shoes, they appeared, quite literally, to walk on water.

McQueen certainly cuts some miraculous clothes. Ex-

LONDON

Iain R. Webb applauds a new wave of Britpack designers

quiescently beaded Jazz Age fringed dresses looked remarkably sophisticated, as did clingy transparent dresses embroidered with cherry blossom and swirling Chinese dragons. Likewise his viciously tailored trouser suits in rose-pink brocade and icy-white matt sequins. However, McQueen

could not resist a little anarchic fun, so he sliced them up with zip fasteners, or spray-painted them with slashes of brightly coloured paint. Far from ruining them, it added a shockingly modern edge. Quite magnificent.

Another designer who used graffiti art to decorate a beautifully tailored jacket and a pair of brocade trousers was Antonio Berardi (while in the artist's studio, look out for Jackson Pollock paint-splatter prints). Although Berardi showed only a relatively small collection, his influence grows each season. This time he was in a classical mood — gladiator jackets with vast shoulders were shown alongside filmy, draped-toga dresses, pleated

centurion skirts worn with wickedly waspie corsets and little-nothing dresses embroidered with posies. Extremely romantic.

This rediscovered "prettiness" pervaded the shows, with designers offering lots of lace, fragile antiqued fabrics and frills with everything.

The mood was shared by several designers, including Bella Freud and Workers For Freedom, but best exemplified by the collections of design duo Clements Ribeiro and Paul Frith. Brightly coloured wrap-and-tie georgette dresses with waterfall frills were evident in both collections, as were slinky jersey dresses, cartoonish floral prints as favoured by Margo Leadbetter in *The Good Life*, and little short-sleeved shirts. While Clements Ribeiro favoured smock tops, Frith cut draped plunge-front blouses. He also showed a one-shouldered, asymmetric top which will no doubt be seen everywhere on the international catwalks.

John Rocha produced a strong showing, which opened with smart suits and coats in soft, creamy leather and ended with diaphanous evening gowns with frilled mermaid tails in pallid shades of blue, grey, coffee, flesh pink and biscuit — sometimes the two mixed. Rocha's designs featured shells and starfish plucked from the seashore.

Water appeared as a recurring theme, from myriad blue hues (from pale aqua to dark navy) which coloured almost every collection, to the overhead projection of the bubbling deep used by the designer Hussein Chalayan. Sadly, his collection felt flat. Chalayan cuts great suits (this season predominantly grey and ever-so-neat) and his beaded diamond dresses were elegant enough, but the image was more than a touch relentless.

Amanda Wakeley also suffered from RSS (repetitive silhouette syndrome). Her look was unswerving. The endless variations on all-in-one tuxedos, pinstripe suits and slithery full-length dresses featuring revealing draped necklines and a classy version of a boob tube (a trend), just got boring. Pretty boring, mind you.

Design duo Pearce Fionda also showed identical-looking pinstriped satin-back-crepe evening dresses (in muted blues, silver greys and custard cream) over and over as the finale of their salon show. Instead of providing a dramatic exit, their previously pacy collection of languid lounge-lizard looks (all chic, *Saturday Night Fever* trouser suits, sleek dresses and pom-pom frizz hairdos) coloured black,

grey and creamy white, simply ground to a halt.

It seems that nothing can stop the established designers from joining in the fun, as London finds itself back in the limelight. The collections of Nicole Farhi, Roland Klein and Margaret Howell have never looked better, each interpreting the mood-of-the-moment for their customers. Katharine Hamnett was back on form with a sexy show full of razzamatazz — beads and sequins, pinstripe suiting and embroidered denim, which few do better than Hamnett.

Ben de Lisi continued to pare down the wardrobe, offering little tie-front tops, asymmetric skirts, and whip-lash thin straps, while best at Betty Jackson were jersey separates in colourful diagonal stripes and a pale blue, glittering lace, pants suit.

But perhaps the biggest surprise of the season was the collection of Tomasz Starz-wski, best known for his flamboyantly idiosyncratic style. This season saw a new Tomasz — frilled shirts worn with understated fluted suits, long, striped jersey dresses

and evening dresses in ivory or navy, cinched at the waist with shiny cummerbunds. Pared to the bone, the end result was much simpler, much prettier, much more modern.

This season the Britpack designers proved that they are truly back on track. Things haven't looked this good since the 1960s, when London ruled the fashion waves. Everybody says so. Don't believe the hype? Believe me, you should.

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS



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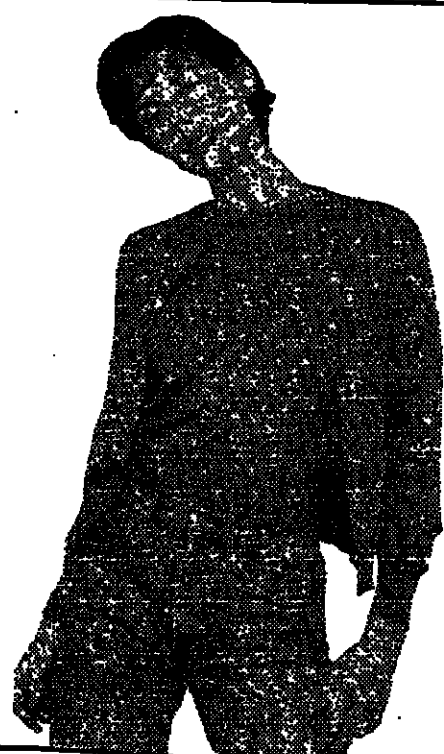
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Sarah is not fair game

What does the public hounding of the Duchess of York say about our national character — how can we treat anyone like this?

Who? The Sun asked its readers yesterday. "would you rather date..." — and note the bestial suggestiveness, the implication of that dot-dot-dot — "Fergie or a goat?"

It is odd, as a journalist, to find oneself coming out to defend the Duchess of York, but I do feel it's time to ask why we feel, how we could feel, it is justifiable to treat anyone like this.

I hold no brief for Fergie, nor do I have any affection for the Royal Family, any faith in the monarchy, but this isn't about that: it's about what it is acceptable to do to any one person. Day after day, she is bombarded by the tabloids, crucified in print. And because she is generally considered a person not worthy of sympathy or concern, it doesn't matter: anything is sayable.

I don't think it is the first duty of journalists always to think about the effect our words might have on the feelings of those we're writing about. There is such a thing as fair comment. But equally so, it is possible to go beyond the boundaries of fair comment. I am not setting myself up as a paragon: one of the few pieces I regret in my journalistic path is an article I wrote — for another paper, incidentally — which expatiated upon the so-called Squidgy tapes. It's not that I feel I shouldn't have done it from a moral point of view, but I can't help feeling it reflected badly on me that I did. To be frank, who of us could stand up to having our private phone conversations scrutinised? Most of us would sound batty, self-obsessed, self-pitying or worse.

I am not preaching total abstinence, however. By invading one's own privacy spectacularly, it is possible to give licence to follow suit. It may be cruel to blame people for their own bad press, but it might, at times, be rather more to the point if those who claimed to be victims accepted their own responsibility in the matter.

But none of this accounts for the cruelty of the national character now. Yes, one can blame the press, point the finger at the tabloids, as we all do, but the fact of the matter remains that we are, as a people, seemingly intent on believing that once someone is a public figure then they don't deserve to be treated as a private person. More: we seem to believe that their being a public figure justifies in itself our opprobrium, that once someone is famous, they lose



Nigella Lawson

the right to have their feelings considered, or indeed to be thought to have any feelings in the first place. They don't count.

In the instance of the public hounding of Sarah Ferguson, the excuse that's used is that she's a member, or former member, of the Royal Family. The *Mirror* can claim, thus, to be proudly republican in spirit, questioning the value of the monarchy and exposing corruption at the highest level. Republicanism has nothing to do with it. If you think the monarchy shouldn't exist, then you think that however individual members of the Royal Family behave: it is hunking to pretend otherwise.

Tony Benn and David Hare, to cite two respectable people who have spoken against the monarchy, have made a point never to talk about individual figures. They sense, rightly, that do so would be to lose any claim to intellectual integrity. I doubt, moreover, that they have any desire to do so: their argument is a political one; to use that excuse to justify the tabloid onslaught is so much opportunism.

Another excuse that's trotted out in justification here is that Fergie is self-evidently losing it, as if believing someone to be loopy were reason enough to try to send them further over the edge. (Much the same rationale is used to justify the endless Diana stories.) But it doesn't make sense. I am not saying one shouldn't print adverse stories about — as it is in this instance — Sarah Ferguson or that one shouldn't gossip, but I think those who do seem committed to having her committed should be prepared to take the consequences of their actions. If I were either of these two women who have been recently liberated from the Royal Family, I'm not sure how I could keep my cool or sanity under such an onslaught.



The constant drip-drip-drip of hostile press comment aimed at the Duchess of York is a torture of a kind

one cannot help but be embarrassed, as if by being reasonable one fears one is sounding pious.

Of course, I don't think this carping can be legally prevented, but surely it should stop? You cannot go on day in, day out undermining someone, attacking them and attempting to destabilise them without that viciousness having some sort of effect. The constant drip-drip-drip of hostile comment is a torture of a kind.

It is not a question of where one's coming from — left or right, to state it in antiquated fashion — because if we believe, as we would if we were civilised, that birth, behaviour or occupation have nothing to do with a person's right to be treated with respect and dignity as a person, then privilege can be no more a disqualifier than poverty.

The attack doesn't come from the press alone, of course. In some sense it is just the conduit.

It is the betrayal of the exotically-styled Madame Vasso which must give rather more cause for personal sorrow. And I don't say the Duchess is to blame for it, but if you must go to cranks, I suppose it isn't so surprising if they act crankily. But that's another great false truth of the age: "healers" must be better than doctors, more trustworthy, more concerned with the whole person.

Yes, well... At least a proper doctor or therapist would be constrained by a professional code of ethics and would run the risk of being struck off for not complying with it. Go to see a woman who peddles her psychic powers under a plastic pyramid and there's no protection.

But that, while significant, is incidental. The behaviour of desperate people, however foolish, does not deprive them of the right to be treated with any dignity, even if you think they don't deserve sympathy. It's not a question of special pleading, but straightforward humanity. But "... if you take the money, and you are in the public eye, you are up for grabs" as one reader, purportedly congratulating the *Mirror* on its great journalistic scoop, puts it. Well, everyone thinks like that now.

The prevailing view of the age rules that the hunting of animals is an irredeemable evil, but any human being, if they're famous enough, and especially if they're female, is just fair game.

Treating his patients as partners

A GP in the 1950s was a pioneer of the early NHS, says Anjana Ahuja

Dr Julian Tudor Hart would have made a formidable politician. After several minutes spent listening to the minutiae of an historic medical dispute, I prod him again on why he chose to study medicine. "I'm just coming to that," he says irritably.

Driven by socialist ideals inherited from his middle-class doctor parents, Dr Hart became a medical pioneer. He qualified in 1952 in the early days of the National Health Service, which promised healthcare for all regardless of wealth. By the mid-Sixties the collision between his politics and his passion to help people proved fruitful — he discovered that, contrary to medical opinion, heart disease was not only a rich man's affliction but was rife among the poor.

He revolutionised general practice by becoming the first GP really to study his patients, examining their patterns of diet, smoking and blood pressure. This was no easy achievement — his subjects were 2,000 sceptical inhabitants of Glyncoth, a poor mining village in South Wales. To conduct his research, he had to persuade them to do things which must have seemed outrageous at the time, such as giving stool samples.

Assisted by his wife Mary, who was equally dedicated, Dr Hart also managed to take the blood pressure of every villager — the last man in the village to acquiesce had a reading so high it was off the scale. By doggedly pursuing his convictions, Dr Hart had saved a life. He quickly gained the confidence of his patients and they in turn saw their health improve and their lifespans lengthen.

Dr Hart's work on blood pressure led to a paper in *The Lancet* in 1970 which earned him the respect of his peers and a voice in the medical establishment, but with his outspoken political views he quickly became the thorn in its side.

Dr Hart, now 69, stood for Parliament three times under the Communist banner, as a way of injecting some socialist ideas into the election. "I realised that medicine and the National Health Service were right at the centre of politics, even though most doctors and nurses regarded themselves as non-political," he says. "But they were involved in one of the biggest social revolutions of our times." He is to be honoured in a BBC documentary which will be shown on Monday.

In 1973, Glyncoth became the first practice to be funded by the Medical Research Council. In some ways, it was a victory for Dr Hart, who once conducted research for the MRC epidemiology unit as a newly qualified doctor. He loved research but left because of its conventions. "There was no exchange between doctor and patient," he recalls. "We had to be totally impartial observers."

That frustration prompted him to seek a captive population to study, which led him to Glyncoth. And here was the MRC again, acknowledging that his philosophy of combining study and care, at odds with its own ethos, was a success.

Dr Hart, now retired, retains forthright views on the NHS: "I would like to see a turn in the tide of commercialisation. We must get away from this idea of patients being consumers. They work with doctors to produce a better understanding of medical science. We pioneered the idea of patients as partners, and it's unstoppable."

● The Good Doctor, October 7, BBC2, 9pm

He showed that heart disease was rife among the poor

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Alan Coren



■ Going cheap, going cheaper, going free — but all I get is pelted

I have ten dozen dead weasels in the boot of my car, and I cannot get rid of them. Nobody wants them. At any price. Even free. Now it may be that you will — not unreasonably — ask why anybody would. There are no weasel recipes, nor do weasels have lucky feet, and you would be absolutely right if this were a simple matter of meat or paws, but it is not. As a matter of fact, these ten dozen weasels have neither meat nor paws, and that is exactly why they ought to be wanted, because the meat and paws were removed for a purpose. The purpose was to leave just pelts, so that these could be stitched together to form the luxurious item I have in the boot of my car. Yes, it is an ermine coat, once worth perhaps £3,000 of anybody's money, but now, it would seem, worth nothing of anybody's.

Which is very sad for my wife's old auntie; or at least it would be if she were not also a late auntie. For when she was still merely old, she bequeathed the coat to my wife, which meant that when she recently graduated to late, my wife inherited it. This was, in its turn, very sad for my wife, because while other relatives came in for elegant inlaid sideboards, nice little watercolours, highly collectible examples of old porcelain and other gee-gaws to be displayed for the delight of all, my wife inherited something to be displayed only if you wanted that same all to stone you in the street. The old auntie did not, of course, have this in mind when she made her will, she was deeply fond of her niece, it is simply that she was a trifle out of touch with the moral niceties of the times into which she had survived. To her, rodent rights were a closed book. My wife, who would not, irrespective of current rectitudes, be caught dead in dead weasels, having so comprehensive a phobia about anything between a shrew and a coypu as to send her shrieking from the room if even Tom & Jerry scurried on-screen, decided to sell the coat.

So I began ringing round that beleaguered rump of furrers who still dare to put their names and addresses into the Yellow Pages, and discovered that they never buy anything secondhand because they hardly ever sell anything first-hand any more. I might, a few suggested, try my local paper, provided I had the sense to offer only a box number rather than specify the whereabouts of an inflammable house, so I phoned the *Hampstead & Highgate Express*; which, after it had had a glass of water and a bit of a lie down, said that it would not advertise fur unless I could come up with wording which showed I disapproved of it. Sensing this to be a less than foolproof sales pitch, I rang off again so that I could call five local newspapers, four of whom declined on the grounds that if they put a card for a fur coat in the window, the window would go before the coat did, and the fifth of whom inquired whether it was code for some special service, girl in a fur coat, man in a fur coat, catch my drift, and when I said no, it was just a fur coat, the moralist banged the receiver down.

Which was when my wife said, oh what the hell, let's give it to Oxfam, they'll probably be able to get a couple of hundred quid for it, the old lady would go along with that, so I threw the coat in the boot — rather than put it on the back seat in full view of any passing weasel rager — and drove round to the Hampstead Oxfam shop.

That is why the coat is still in the boot. Our policy is not to accept fur coats for resale, said Oxfam, once it had finished reeling. These are dead weasels, I replied, would it not be a caring move all round if we saw to it that they had not died in vain? We are not looking at a coat here, I continued, we are looking at a truckload of schoolbooks, an irrigation system, possibly a ton or two of penicillin, when did a weasel last get an opportunity to perform a charitable act like that? She was, I'm sorry to say, steadfast. Sorry not only for Rwanda or Bangladesh, but also for myself, stuck as I am with an item I cannot even bin, lest the dustmen refuse my refusal on weaseltarian grounds. All I can do is bung the coat in the loft and leave it to its inevitable doom. If nothing else, that should please the Moth Rights lobby.

Nicholas Kenyon defends the BBC's cultural flagship against the charge of populism

Radio 3 shouldn't be what it used to be

A couple of weeks ago, at the end of the one of the most successful Proms seasons ever, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus were performing the Last Night favourites of *Rule Britannia* and *Jerusalem*. On Sunday night at the Royal Festival Hall, they leapt into the present to tackle a huge new 55-minute choral and orchestral work by the leading British composer Colin Matthews, *Renewal*, commissioned for the 50th anniversary of the BBC Third Programme. Such strong contrasts of style and repertoire are everyday work for our orchestras and musicians, as they are for Radio 3, which aims to broadcast the widest possible range of the musical repertoire across the centuries — the rare and the unusual as well as the great and the familiar.

Over the past few years we at the network have made a determined effort to make those riches, and the riches of our drama, features and poetry, more approachable without in any way compromising their quality. It seems to me that a cultural and musical network should be able to welcome the presenting styles of Andrew McGregor and Brian Kay (a Sony Award winner as music broadcaster of the year), the inquisitive vigour of Natalie Wheen and Ivan Hewett, as well as the reflections of those specialist presenters who guide us around *Composers of the Week* or the contemporary surprises of *Mixing It* and *Heart and Now*.

No, Paul Gambaccini didn't work on the network: we tried a new style, and I'm surprised that he should now attack

us when all we did was to back him to the hilt. *Morning Collection*, the programme he helped to create, will flourish without him, but I have to say that the audience will be happier.

We have to experiment, and sometimes we don't succeed, but I disagree with those like Gerald Kaufman who feel that we have thrown away our inheritance by attempting an occasional change of style for today's audience. "Radio 3 isn't what it used to be" is a familiar cry, and as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of one of the BBC's greatest cultural inventions, the Third Programme, the cry will doubtless be renewed. My firm view is that Radio 3 shouldn't be what it used to be. If it were, it would have failed to respond to a changing world and a changing broadcasting environment, in which the choice available to listeners — not just through the arrival of a commercial classical music radio station, but through the huge availability of CDs, cassettes, and online services — has transformed the way in which we receive and respond to classical music.

Radio 3 is far more than a classical music service, as we demonstrate every

week with our rich diet of Sunday plays and features (such as John Berger's piercingly witty and imaginative feature earlier this month), and our new poetry and cultural discussions; but it is also fundamentally different from the Third Programme. That astonishing enterprise broadcast only in the evenings, demanding a concentration and attention which, it seems, a small number of committed listeners were able to offer. A *Radio Times* cartoon of the late 1940s made the point: "No need to hurry home, darling," says a professional character down the phone as his young son sits bound and gagged to a chair. "Julian and I are thoroughly enjoying the Third Programme."

Good for you, but somehow not for me: that is an attitude that many controllers of Radio 3 before me have been anxious to change. An opportunity came in the 1960s, after the cutbacks to the Third which were so damaging to its reputation, with the introduction of the daytime Music Programme on the same wavelength. This was a fundamentally different service from the Third, with long sequences of music and cheery titles — *Matinée Musicale*, *Aubade* —

which was entrusted not to the controller of the Third, but to the controller of the Home Service.

Reconciling the styles of a daytime music service and an evening mixed cultural service has been the balancing act of each controller of Radio 3 since that name came into being in 1970 with the BBC's "streamed" broadcasting. The emphasis on a music service or a mixed cultural service has varied under different controllers, and the tensions between their aims and those of successive controllers of music who were responsible not for the network but for music policy, the orchestras and the Proms) is amusingly documented in Humphrey Carpenter's new book *The Envy of the World*.

Any interior of the BBC's great musical traditions feels an enormous debt to those who preceded the Third Programme: the work of Edward Clark during the 1930s in bringing a roll-call of great living composers to work with the BBC Symphony Orchestra — Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Bartok, Prokofiev, Hindemith — commissioning new works and reflecting adventurous music

from Europe with a vigour that was not to recur until William Glock took over the BBC's musical direction in the 1960s.

The Proms, under Glock, Robert Ponsonby and John Drummond, have achieved a unique status in British musical life, and this year's record-breaking season was a testimony both to the inheritance they created and to the open-mindedness of our amazingly adventurous audience. But while we sell about a quarter of a million tickets in the eight weeks of the Proms season, the real reason for the BBC to promote and run them is that a million people every week listen to the broadcasts on Radio 3.

And the Proms are only the tip of the iceberg when we consider Radio 3's investment in the musical life of the country. At a time when the commercial record companies and many publicly funded arts organisations are in difficulties, the stable bedrock provided by programme-making funded by the licence fee is an increasingly important part of the financing of the arts in this country, one we ignore at our peril. All five of the BBC's orchestras featured in Sunday's special day of programmes, and all the orchestras in the country will feature in Radio 3's retrospective of the 20th century, which will be our next major adventure.

If Radio 3 continues to change and adapt, and reflect all that is most vital in our cultural and musical life, it can look forward to celebrating its centenary.

The author is Controller of BBC Radio 3 and Director of the Proms.

Labour men and Tory measures

Tony Blair is an orator of the calibre of Lloyd George — but his detachment from the party recalls Ramsay MacDonald

Tony Blair has become the best orator in Britain. Yesterday he lifted his Blackpool audience and carried them off to the Heavenly City. He is a man who dares a platitude too far. A thousand days, a heritage of hope, a decent society, a government of the millennium for the millennium: his speech was a carnival of clichés, but he decked them in fiery and they stole the show.

Mr Blair was supposedly presenting what amounted to a programme for Britain's first change of government for 18 years. He almost fooled us. The substance in his speech was more that of a modest adjustment of course by a government long in office. The point is that Mr Blair is deliberately being opaque. Keep it simple is the message. Limit damage, obfuscate policy, give no hostages to the Tories and take none from the Left. Confine all action to conveying an image of strength.

Thus Mr Blair has been tough on old Labour and tough on the causes of old Labour. His vision has been one not of a new Britain but of a Labour victory. Labour is acting for power. Its supporters are groaning for office, quangos, honours, patronage. Ideology is immaterial. As Eric Hobsbawm puts it, Labour activists must "stuff their ears and grit their teeth" as they pray for a Labour victory.

This strategy has had prodigious success. For all the efforts of the Tory demagogues, Mr Blair has stripped away coat after coat of old paint and damp wallpaper from his party's image. The Moderniser has become the Enforcer. He has certainly shown the strengths most admired in Britain's cabalistic politics, those of the party manager, disciplinarian and whip. Not for nothing are Labour emissaries to the City trying the line "if you liked Thatcher, you'll love Blair".

But what lies behind the dazzle? Powerful men are best judged not by their victories but by their scars. Mr Blair has now been around long enough to have a few, and they are instructive. On links with the unions he has faced down his foes, knowing that this can do him only good with floating voters. On Scotland he was equally assertive. When the Scottish party took leave of its senses, he obeyed Baroness Thatcher's maxim: if you must U-turn, then U-turn fast. His personal and Cabinet agonies over schools were brazened out, and the gambit of backing Harriet Harman worked. So too did his Clause Four roadshow and his manifesto charade. In each case we see a leader confident in his own judgment against that of his party, confident because he knows that the party is an incubus rather than an asset. There are other more intriguing scars.



Never can a British Opposition have offered the electorate so little structural change in its platform. Gordon Brown has insisted that there must be no hint of any change to the priorities of the current Tory public spending round, now being completed for 1997-98. This is astonishing. Mr Blair demands a transformation in the face of Britain for the millennium, yet dutifully agrees that if Mr Brown wants no more money, he shall have none. If he wants no pledge on pensions, there will be no pledge. If he wants no fixed minimum wage, that is fine. If he wants to cut child benefit for over-16s, he can cut away. No spending may be suggested that cannot be financed within the budget of each department. This is a discipline that even Margaret Thatcher failed to achieve. She arrived in office in 1979 the Queen of Squander in comparison.

Yesterday Mr Blair covered all this in candour. If the Tories had "torn apart the fabric of the nation", he was not

Simon Jenkins

going to begin stitching. New Labour will be tougher on public spending than the Tories. It should be less profligate on police and prisons, less craven towards farmers and less timid with the generals. If it were to end rate-capping it could shift much local spending back onto council tax and even cut income tax. A windfall levy on utilities and a nationalisation of lottery revenue would also bring in substantial sums.

Alongside Mr Blair's rhetoric, the draft manifesto's five famous pledges are ludicrously timid. They are to cut

NHS red tape; to make the courts more efficient; to set tough rules for public spending; to end subsidy to private schools so as to get infant class sizes below 30; and to tax utilities to "provide 250,000 extra jobs". The first three pledges are Tory policy, and the last two do not add up. This is not even gas and water socialism. It is mere tinkering with the present Cabinet's policies, of the sort that will easily be trumped next week. Nor has Labour begun to show how it would confront the two dominant questions of the next government, how to raise tax revenue to cut borrowing, and how to define Britain's position outside a European common currency.

What happens when the gilt wears off? Troubled Tory governments in decades past retreated into their own. They sank back on their party, seeking comfort in grandees, country houses, clubs and activists. Mr Major has neglected this outer bailey of Toryism. Like Sir Edward Heath, he has retreated instead

into his Downing Street keep. From there he spits out a weekly fusillade of laws, interventions, initiatives, most of them seeking the attention of the press. Now that he badly needs help, he finds that the party in the country has gone home, and his supporters are disloyal, squabbling and few.

Mr Blair is already running the same risk. His timidity on policy suggests that he too will be a "Treasury" prime minister. For all his talk of decentralisation — his one radical commitment — he wears the mantle uncomfortably. Just six months from putative office, he has given no details of what he means by it. Instead, the "new nationalisation", the progressive imposition of standardised norms nationwide, is more likely to be the theme of his administration. As for the end of rate-capping, the talisman of true decentralisation, it was strangely absent from yesterday's speech.

I expect that Mr Blair in trouble will find succour much as does Mr Major, not in the institutions of his party but in the corridors and kitchen Cabinets of Whitehall. This is customary for prime ministers under pressure, but it is dangerous. It is the more so when Mr Blair appears to be at the point most Labour governments reach after two or three years in office, incurring the growing suspicion of the party in the country and on the back benches that he does not want what they want.

Mr Blair's cavalier attitude to the old bogymen of his party may have the Tories cheering, new Labour exultant and the Liberal Democrats dismayed. It may be reassuring, indeed refreshing, to the electorate. But every party in government relies on its natural constituency of support to supply the discipline, if not the momentum, of power. Mr Blair's new voters across Middle England will be fairweather ones. Try as he may to change it, his constituency remains organised labour, local government, the Left and "the minorities". If he alienates that support, he will lose the consent on which his parliamentary discipline rests. Ask Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, ask Lady Thatcher.

There are times when Mr Blair seems eerily detached from his party. It is as if he were not its creature but a confection of his own charm, talent and energy. With the rhetorical gifts of a Lloyd George goes a touch of Ramsay MacDonald, a man wondering what on earth possessed him to be Labour, yearning to invite Lady Londonderry to Chequers. There are clouds in the offing that he must beware.

If I were the electorate I would not worry about "New Labour, New Danger". I would worry about "New Labour, No Danger, Old Tory".

Party pooped

ONE OF THE most convivial political bashes of the year has fallen victim to the cash-for-questions case, now abandoned, between *The Guardian* and Neil Hamilton, the disgraced former Trade Minister. Ian Greer, the parliamentary lobbyist who was fighting the case along with Hamilton, has cancelled his party at the Conservative conference. It has always been a champagne-soaked event with fancy canapés, attended as often as not by the Prime Minister and scores of his Cabinet colleagues.

On Monday, Hamilton and Greer agreed not to contest the case. Earlier, Greer had sent out letters to invitees. "As you are no doubt aware, my legal action at *The Guardian* sadly coincides with the Conservative Party conference. It would appear that I may well be giving evidence on October 7, the day when I had expected to be able to entertain you to dinner. I am sorry to have to cancel our date, as I had greatly looked forward to it."

Yesterday, a friend of Greer said that sadly the party will still not take place — even though the legal action has been abandoned.

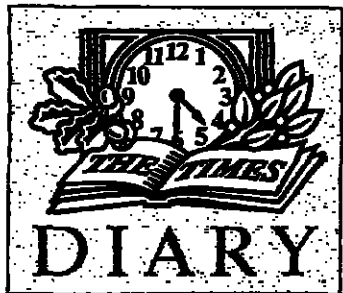
So the party of the year is now likely to be that hosted in Brighton for Sir James Goldsmith by Carla Powell during the Referendum

Party's conference. Expect nothing short of the most glamorous socialites this side of Annabel's.

● This week Parliament played host to the ceremony to swear in the new QCs. One bewigged gent made his way to the Central Lobby afterwards and asked an attendant "Do you have the key to my office?" It was Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, nondescript at the best of times and rendered completely anonymous by his enor-



"May I look in your bag, please, sir"



mous wig. The attendant needed convincing and Sir Nicholas finally had to remove the wig to prove his identity.

Who said what

MARGARET THATCHER'S former private secretary, Sir Charles Powell, takes a kick in the diplomatic teeth from Lord Dacre of Glanton (better known as Hugh Trevor-Roper) in *The Spectator* this week.

Dacre rallies behind George Urban, a key figure in Thatcher's policymaking in the 1980s, who wrote recently in *The Times* of the Chequers seminar at which Thatcher was beastly about the Germans. Sir Charles gave the impression that the academics at the meeting supported Thatcher's view. Urban vehemently disputed this. My *Spectator* mole says that Lord Dacre, another eyewitness, will

slap down Powell with devastating effect. "I think we are just as competent to know what we think and what we said, and heard, on that occasion as Sir Charles."

Plodding on

BEHIND THE farce that is the Labour Party's conference security this year lies murky union intrigue. In the past, Securitor has handled security, but this year it ran into trouble with the unions, in particular the GMB and its leader, John Edmonds.

Edmonds carries a big stick at this conference, so the organisers capitulated to his insistence that Securitor lose the contract to pro-



Sir Charles: challenged

vide the security as a punishment for their union trouble.

In Securitor's place, have come Group 4, bogymen of the Left as representatives of the privatised prison services. Result: pepper gas explosions in the hall and chaotic queues for accreditation redolent of the final days before the fall of Saigon. Glenys Kinnock was forced to wait two hours for her pass, and the authorities were insisting that babies as young as eight months carry identity cards.

Cooked up

CAROLYN BESSETTE, the blonde who has just snapped up John F. Kennedy Jr., whom she married last week, took the old-fashioned route to capture her man's heart. She might have met him doing the trendy thing, jogging in Central Park, but she kept him by taking a cooking course.

Last autumn she enrolled in a "Fundamentals of Cooking" class at the New School for Social Research with a college friend. "Both of them were very nice, apparently, but Carolyn did skip the odd class. Not quite soufflé standard yet then."

Grub up

KEITH FLOYD, wine-bibbing chef and serial womaniser, should eat his heart out. Two female chefs



Jennifer and Clarissa: the new queens of cuisines

who also enjoy their grub are ready to knock him off his perch. Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson-Wright begin their BBC series, *Two Fat Ladies*, next week. They travel around the countryside in motorbike and sidecar — which caused a difficulty during filming. "Jennifer normally drives a 90cc moped, and on the big motorbike she got the throttle and brake mixed up," explains my source. "She hared off screaming

loudly when she got on the bike, nearly mowed down a camera crew and then crashed into a flagpole." After recovering from the accident, the two girls are seen picking mushrooms. Clarissa warns Jennifer off some poisonous mushrooms. "You can't eat those," she says. "They're the sort I would pick to poison my father."

P.H.S



NEW JERUSALEM

Labour messianism is a mixed blessing

The voters of Britain are looking for a vision of the future that John Major does not readily provide. Many will have watched Tony Blair's speech on television yesterday and marvelled at a man who spins words like spells and makes the future seem as though it is happening now.

The Labour leader's third conference speech yesterday was arguably his hardest. In his first he told old Labour what new Labour was going to be. In his second he said it all again and more — and this time received the reward of public and party acclaim. Yesterday he had to motivate party workers who are already persuaded of his project and potential voters who are not. He had little new to say. The result was a risky performance which showed both Mr Blair's inspirational gifts and the perils of building castles in the air. Having kept so little in reserve, he was forced this year to tread perilously close to triumphalism.

The first few minutes of his speech were delivered as if he were already Prime Minister: a few sage words about the Middle East peace process were followed by some more on Northern Ireland. He set a deadline for his own government to complete the single market. And he announced that he would begin talks with European leaders now, in Opposition, to achieve it.

Labour has grown used to the compliment that it looks today like the governing party while the Tories display the indiscipline of an Opposition. A sense of quiet purpose and unity in Mr Blair's party is one thing; to undertake the business of government in advance and to boast about history's verdict upon it is close to the line between confidence and arrogance.

He promised a future Britain which history "will call" the Decent Society, a new social order for the new Age of Achievement for Britain. Labour's first thousand days in office, he said, would "prepare for a

thousand years". For every floating voter who responds to the ambition there will be another who recoils from the hubris. Mr Blair's speech had shades of Sheffield about it and some still remember the damage that Neil Kinnock's triumphalism at that rally did to the party's election prospects.

For many, the language and tone will have overshadowed the substance in yesterday's speech. For Mr Blair, that will be a pity. A "New Age of Achievement" is more suited to Glastonbury than Westminster. But Mr Blair's proposals for a "national grid" for learning, remedial summer schools, and "one-stop" public services are attractive policies that sit well with Labour's new sense of itself. His commitment to education and fiscal prudence will bring both reassurance and support.

The leader's cult of personality is a strong but dangerous thing. For Mr Blair to make jokes about his resemblance to Kim Il Sung might have been acceptable had the rest of his oratory sounded less like that of a Great Leader. All talk of preparing for a thousand years should be discouraged. Repeated use of the word "I" rather than "we" went well beyond Mr Blair's need to separate himself from his party. To some it might even smack of the narrow individualism that the Labour leader has professed to be in politics to change.

Without Mr Blair, the Labour Party would be nowhere. He knows it, and the voters know it. He has performed brilliantly in remodelling a recalcitrant party, in taking difficult and unpopular decisions in Opposition and in redefining the policies of a centre-left party to suit a modern age. His attitude yesterday to reach out to people who would never naturally have voted Labour was a welcome example of political inclusiveness. But New Labour, New Modesty would be a useful guiding principle of the next few months.

SLEAZE AND MISJUDGMENT

Deceit is a more harmful charge to the Tories than division

Neil Hamilton has handed the Labour Party a gift more valuable than any lobbyist's fee. His cavalier pursuit of *The Guardian* over-claims that he asked parliamentary questions for cash has ended in ignominious rout. Mr Hamilton may have wanted to clear his name, rebuild his career and restore what he saw as responsibility to reporting. Instead he has succeeded only in damaging his reputation, his party and the constitution. Out of his discarded writs the Opposition can fashion a weapon to strike the Tories in their most vulnerable area — sleaze.

Mr Hamilton has hitherto enjoyed the benefit of his colleagues' considerable doubts. A politician of wit and charm, he has a provocative ability to range into territory his more cautious colleagues never risk. He was a commando in a government of foot-sloggers. There was sympathy for Mr Hamilton in many quarters when allegations in *The Guardian* led to his departure from the Government. He vigorously denied the suggestion that he had received money from Mohamed Al Fayed to ask questions in the Commons, with the lobbyist Ian Greer acting as intermediary. His determination to fight persuaded colleagues to support him.

That faith has been shown to be misplaced. By dropping his action with seconds to spare Mr Hamilton is guilty, at the very least, of reckless misjudgment. A trained barrister, he must have known how complex and expensive libel litigation would be. It strains credulity to believe that it was only on the eve of trial that costs became an insuperable obstacle. Until Monday afternoon Mr Hamilton had exerted himself strenuously to pursue his action. He conducted a high-profile and rhetorically high-flown campaign against *The Guardian*. He persuaded parliamentary colleagues to amend the 1689 Bill of Rights to

allow MPs to waive privilege. He had also chosen to fight his case at a time of great potential embarrassment to the Government instead of waiting until after the election. His daring might have been understandable, although not excusable, if he had a strong enough case to see matters through. But with the benefit of hindsight it seems damaging hubris.

The Government itself is not free from blame. Its acquiescence in Mr Hamilton's one-man rewriting of the constitution does not sit well with its posture as the defender of ancient liberties against overhasty change. But the greater damage is not to the Tory reputation for consistency, but to probity. The Conservatives' efforts to win back the affections of the electorate have been continually stymied by new revelations of sleaze. From the high politics of the Scott report to the low farce of ministerial faithlessness, a series of incidents has reinforced the impression of a Government too long in power and too careless in its exercise.

That sense will only be reinforced by Mr Hamilton's abandonment of his action and the new revelations already appearing. Some of the long list of sleaze allegations may be trivial, others sins that governments are always heir to. But the cumulative impression is easily as damaging as the perception that the party is split. Deceit is a more harmful charge than division.

John Major, who still enjoys a reputation for plain dealing, has tried to restore faith in public life with the establishment of the Nolan committee. Many of the lobbying practices which so offended public opinion have ended. But public confidence in this Government is still at a low ebb, and it is difficult to see how it might be easily and quickly restored.

THE MIMIC WHO MOANED

Goons are paid for laughs not their inner turmoil

Peter Sellers felt trapped inside the characters he played. We know so because his ex-wife, the former sex kitten Britt Ekland, is selling her Chelsea home to move to Hollywood. And among the contents for sale is a letter from Sellers describing the agony and emptiness of his life as a comic film character. This news comes not as what Inspector Clouseau would pronounce a "bermshell". When a member of the public addressed him on location for *The Pink Panther*, "Aren't you Peter Sellers?" he replied "Not today," and stalked away.

And anyway typecasting is a common hazard of his trade. It took Sean Connery years and the discarding of the youthful wig he wore for the Bond films to escape from the long screen shadow of 007. Hugh Grant is in danger of playing nobody but a bashful upper-class English twit, and John Thaw struggles to show there is life for him on the small screen after Inspector Morse. The small bubble characters in soap operas are far more real for viewers than the players who act them. Only the greatest actors, such as Alec Guinness and John Gielgud, step out of their characters when they step out through the stage door, and pass for accountants or civil servants in the street.

But Sellers was a brilliant mimic rather than an actor. On the radio he created vivid fantasy characters. However, cinema flinches from mimicry and strips away the

onion-skins of bogusness. His virtuoso mimicry never helped him to find a comic screen or stage persona, as happened to Groucho Marx and W. C. Fields, Kenneth Williams and Frankie Howerd. Sellers became an international celebrity without ever apparently considering the nature of acting. And the characters he played were fruity role models, from Queen Victoria and his inspector with banana skins for feet and "funny" French accent to the humanitarian Indian doctor who launched ten thousand silly "Goodness Gracious Me" imitations.

Stanislavsky's system, the Method, has much to answer for in encouraging the tormented self-importance that has earned the acting trade its affectionate, not abusive, nickname of "luvvies" which so annoys Trevor Nunn. When an actor asks the director, "What's my motivation for moving on that line?", the correct answer is, "Your salary slip." Noel Coward understood the comedy game when he said he felt like strangling anybody described as a dedicated actress. "What is she dedicated about?"

Peter Sellers made a generation laugh. The caricatures he created, from Red Robbo union Brother to mad nuclear scientist, helped to form the opinions of the age. It is a pity that the clown felt a vacuum behind the mask. But that is the perennial complaint of those who live to make us laugh. And Sellers left more laughter than most of them.

Castle's call for pensions rethink

From Mr Tony Lynes

Sir, Your dismissal (leading article, September 30) of Baroness Castle of Blackburn's demands — for the basic pension to be linked to earnings again and for the cuts in state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps) to be restored — as lacking in "ideological rectitude" is misguided.

It is true that most poor pensioners have their pensions topped up with income support, but the difference between the basic pension and income support for pensioners under 75 is less than a third of the £1,000 a year they are losing through the breaking of the earnings link in 1980.

Even the higher income-support rate for the over-80s is nearly £7 a week less than the basic pension would have been if the link had not been broken. Breaking the link has therefore made poor pensioners considerably poorer, and without a change of policy this process will continue.

As for Serps, its ideological basis was that everyone needed a decent pension and that, for millions of people, the job of providing it could be done most efficiently through a state scheme. Even in its present reduced form, Serps has major advantages: it offers benefits of a defined proportion of earnings, as personal pension schemes do not; once in payment, the pension is fully inflation-proofed; and, most important of all, Serps pension rights are totally portable through any number of job changes.

If others think these aims can be achieved better in a different way, they are entitled to say so, but Lady Castle does not hold that view and is therefore right to demand that Serps be allowed to do the job for which it was designed.

Yours truly,
TONY LYNES
(Expert Adviser, DHSS, 1974-79),
92 Grove Park, SE5,
September 30.

Labour and unions

From Mr Archie Norman

Sir, I read with surprise Philip Bassett's remarkable claim (Business, September 30) that the Labour Party's dependence on trade union money is now "relatively so small" that the political heat is hardly worth the benefit. The same article goes on to state that the unions provided Labour with 47 per cent of the party's income over £7 million — in 1995. Since when has nearly half the party's income been "hardly worth the benefit"?

Despite the nice words it is clear that Labour's proposals for business still contain a substantial trade union agenda. Proposals for a minimum wage, the social chapter, statutory recognition and new rights for strikers represent the price business would have to pay for a trade union-funded Labour Party in power.

Yours faithfully,
ARCHIE NORMAN
(Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Tunbridge Wells),
84 London Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
September 30.

The party of enterprise?

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, You report (September 30) that Tony Blair "is expected to tell both business and unions to forget the past" as an attempt to establish Labour as the party of enterprise in Britain.

Aims of industry is telling its supporters to reject this. Businessmen should have a sense of history. The fight for the survival of freedom and enterprise in Britain was a hard one. It is — despite the blandishments of Tony Blair — not over by a long way. And the fight will go on whoever wins the next general election.

Aims is emphasising to its supporters that they need to communicate that a Labour/socialist government still poses a genuine threat.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS
(Consultant),
Aims of Industry,
2 Mulgrave Road, NW10,
September 30.

Realism and the IRA

From Mr John F. Martin

Sir, Mr Maritz Vandenberg (letter, September 28) draws attention to the way that the IRA equates its terrorism with legitimate military operations. That being so, they should be prepared for any of their "soldiers", captured during such operations, who are not in some positively identifiable military uniform, to be liable to the death penalty, as this is, I understand, still valid in such cases.

Yours truly,
JOHN F. MARTIN,
Royal Air Force Club,
128 Piccadilly, W1,
September 28.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Wait and see' on monetary union

From Mr David Kemp, QC

Sir, I have no objection to the Government's policy of "wait and see" on monetary union. Unlike Mr Kenneth Clarke, I do not regard it as "pathetic". But this policy should involve a wide-ranging public debate now of the advantages and disadvantages of the single currency.

Sir Richard Faber (letter, September 30) asks whether "we can afford to stay out". Equally important is whether financially and constitutionally we can afford to go in. I am no economist, but those better qualified have raised many economic questions which require to be answered by the proponents of the single currency.

For example, an article in the Money section of *The Sunday Times* of September 29 argued cogently that the failure of the Maastricht convergence criteria to include pensions would result in a considerable increase in British indirect taxation to pay for generous German, French and Italian pensions — the latter having to be met almost entirely from taxation rather than, as in Britain, largely by provident prior funding. The proponents of the single currency should answer financial arguments of this nature now, so that the British public can be better informed when the final decision has to be made.

So, too, with constitutional issues. It appears that a single currency may deprive the British Government of the ability to determine interest rates and indirect taxation and to control the British economy. It may also rob Britain of its own gold reserves. Are such contentions correct? And, if so, is that a desirable situation?

"Wait and see" need not involve closing your mind to pertinent arguments. The sooner that these vital issues are fully and publicly discussed by both sides of the argument, the better for Britain.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEMP,
Monckton Chambers,
4 Raymond Buildings,
Grays Inn, WCI,
September 30.

From Mr Tim Parkinson

Sir, Professor Rice-Evans's comments, in his letter of September 30, once again blur the debate on a single currency by oversimplifying it. It is not, as the professor emotively

asserts, a matter of being either a "fully participating member of a great European enterprise" or a "negligible Little England sandwiched between the USA and USE". The choice is between remaining fully participating members of a single European market, with legally guaranteed free trade and the ability to set our own levels of interest rates and fiscal policy — independence not isolationism — and joining a single currency area which has many uncertainties, potentially good and bad, but which will certainly reduce our ability to run our own affairs.

This argument is not about being pro or anti-European. It is about economic and political sovereignty.

Yours faithfully,
TIM PARKINSON
(Economics Master),
The College,
College Street,
Winchester, Hampshire,
September 30.

From Mrs Isobel MacNab

Sir, Mr Stephen Woodard (letter, September 25) quotes Sir Winston Churchill as stating in 1950 that the Conservative Party "declares that national sovereignty is not inviolable and that it may be resolutely diminished for the sake of all the men in all the lands finding their way home together".

This is at variance with the PM's memo to his Cabinet of November 29, 1951, in which he wrote that he had never contemplated "the United Kingdom joining the Schuman plan on the same terms as the European states".

We should, however, have joined in all the discussions and had we done so, not only a better plan would probably have emerged but our own interests would have been watched at every stage.

Our attitude towards further economic developments on the Schuman lines resembles that which we adopt about the European Army: We help, we dedicate, we play a part, but we are not merged and do not forfeit our insular or Commonwealth-wide character. I should resist any American pressure to treat Britain as on the same footing as the European states, none of whom have the advantages of the Channel and who were consequently conquered.

A statesman, par excellence.
Yours faithfully,
ISOBEL MACNAB,
Loch Lann, Culloden, Inverness,
October 1.

Prison sentences and rising crime

From the Chief Probation Officer, Inner London Probation Service

Sir, Simon Jenkins is to be congratulated on his lucid article, "Crimes of the punishers" (September 25), explaining some of the trends that lie behind the official recorded crime statistics. In it he refers to the mandatory "three strikes and you're out" sentencing model in California which is likely to be emulated in a Criminal Justice Bill before Parliament in the forthcoming session.

I recently had the opportunity of discussing the California model with 40 of their judges at an international seminar in Oxford. They confirmed Jenkins's view that the policy was a disaster, bringing great discredit on the criminal justice process through trial delays, increases in not guilty pleas, unjust sentencing through limitations to the judges' discretion, a trebled prison population costing more than California's higher education bill, and little or no reduction in recorded crime rates.

In passing, they failed to understand our continuing fascination with the American way of justice.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARDING,
Chief Probation Officer,
Inner London Probation Service,
71-73 Great Peter Street, SW1.

Educational vouchers

From Professor Lord Skidelsky, FBA

Sir, Mr Michael Stern's letter (September 28; see also letters, September 23) commenting on my article, "Let state schools go private" (September 20), argues that "without selection of pupils by schools, vouchers... can only lead to a decline in the quality of those schools that are already over-subscribed".

His argument assumes a fixed supply of schools — largely true in the state sector, where supply is bureaucratically planned, but not true of the independent sector, where supply responds to demand.

Nor would it be true of a privatised national system, financed by vouchers. With an elastic supply of places, selection of schools by parents would predominate over selection of pupils by schools. Even the most famous public schools find they have to keep up standards or lose custom.

There is a popular idea that enormous fixed costs are involved in setting up a new school, which it will rarely pay an entrepreneur to incur. This is not true. A new school does not necessarily require new plant. New schools can be set up in existing school buildings or in other kinds of rented (or donated) space. Beyond that, they require teachers and books and furniture and not a great deal else.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SKIDELSKY,
House of Lords,
September 28.

From Mr Peter Coad

Sir, The recent rise of 0.4 per cent in the overall crime rate in England and Wales, following three consecutive years falling (report: September 25) is evidence of success, not failure. As recently as 1990 this rate rose by 13 per cent; in 1991 by 18 per cent; and in 1992 by 11 per cent.

This year's figure compares very favourably with the period when anti-prison ideology dominated: as prison populations fell, the crime rate rocketed; as prison populations have increased, the crime rate has begun to fall. It will take time to establish a strong downward trend.

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, will be pleased with the reduction of property and car offences. The rise in crimes of violence vindicates his proposed mandatory tough prison sentences based on his "two strikes and you're out" sentencing concept so foolishly denigrated by liberal judges and the anti-prison lobby. Michael Howard is the most effective Home Secretary for decades and deserves to be supported.

Yours faithfully,
PETER COAD
(Senior probation officer, 1968-88),
20 Druid Woods,
Stoke Bishop, Bristol,
September 27.

Mystery solved

From Mr Malcolm J. Early

Sir, I am writing to inform you that one of the more elusive mysteries of the Universe has been solved. I refer of course to the debate regarding the primacy of the Chicken or the Egg.

This afternoon I posed the problem to my daughter Jennifer, aged seven, who after appropriate contemplation revealed the answer to be the Egg.

When I challenged this, I was promptly put in my place: "Because the dinosaurs had eggs".

Best regards,
MALCOLM J. EARLY,
98 Regent Farm Road,
Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne,
October 1.

Church music

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer

Sir, I hope all these organisations who play elaborate arrangements of current tunes to their congregations (letters, September 30; see also letters September 12, 16, 20, 23, 25) ensure that their parochial church councils are subscribers to the Performing Right Society.

The music is the property of the copyright holders. Render unto Caesar...

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,
34 West End,
Haddenham, Cambridge,
September 30.

Oswald Mosley's anti-Semitism

From Mr Nicholas Mosley

Sir, Bernard Levin is generous to myself in his article about my father and me ("Oswald and Nicholas", September 27) and he has every right to stress the evils of my father's alliance with anti-Semitism. But he mentions the left-wing radicalism of my father's early years, and the way in which his economic ideas are said to be being taken up by "Tory grandees" now, and he also says that he himself believes that Oswald Mosley was not "a rooted Jew-baiter" — so he might surely see that there is an interesting story here somewhere.

I have read an early draft of the scripts of the proposed TV drama-series about my father commissioned by Channel 4, and in no way is the anti-Semitism of my father's middle years glossed over: in fact there are scenes in the East End of London precisely like those which Bernard Levin so painfully remembers. But if anti-Semitism is to be understood, and thus combated successfully, it has to be reacted to with more subtlety than a simple turning away in horror.

Channel 4 aims at presenting a story, a dramatisation, which is the most telling way of illuminating complex issues. Any remark I might have made about my father "not being a racist" referred to his private, not his public, behaviour.

Bernard Levin, who makes much of my stammer, has an effortless way with words: so had my father; perhaps if one struggles with complexity it is sometimes appropriate to have a stammer.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS MOSLEY,
2 Gloucester Crescent, NW1.

Wodehouse at war

From Mr Richard Gordon

Sir, P. G. Wodehouse — whom I knew in New York in the 1950s, by which time he was virtually an American — was not "vain" (report, October 1). Nor could he exploit Broadway and Hollywood for 40 years and be "a fool".

Werner Pack, whom the Germans used to fix Wodehouse's broadcasts of 1940, had known him from script-writing in Hollywood. Wodehouse shifted to USA in 1939, to discover that "the only English characters the American public would read about were exaggerated duds". He avoided England as Kipling avoided India. But like Charlie Chaplin, C. Aubrey Smith and David Niven, he never renounced British citizenship — it was not at all the done thing.

Until December 7, 1941, Wodehouse — had he become an American — could have with impunity interviewed Dr Goebbels on *Desert Island Discs*. His "treachery" was all the fault of his patriotism.

I am, etc.

RICHARD GORDON.

The Garrick Club,

Garrick Street, WC2.

October 1.

No longer royal

From the Publishing Director of Burke's Peerage

Sir, The caption to your bridal picture (September 23) of Margarita of Romania and her husband, Mr Radu Dudu, of Bucharest, is misleading. Margarita, daughter of ex-King Michael, has lost her right to be styled HRH and Princess because of her marriage to a Romanian.

The law adopted by the Romanian Parliament in 1981 states that the successor to the throne must be male. (Margarita has been named by her father as heiress to the throne.) Because of this marriage she now loses her title and all dynastic rights; she can be known henceforward only as Mrs Dudu.

According to Romanian law the heir to the throne after Michael's death would be the closest male descendant of the Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen line.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD BROOKS-BAKER,
Publishing Director,
Burke's Peerage,
209 St John's Hill, SW11.

Panic disorders

From Mr B. D. Barber

Sir, Dr Thomas Stunsford writing on phobias and their treatment (Body and Mind, September 26) was, as usual, both interesting and informative. However, before I could show his article to my arachnophobic wife I had to excise the accompanying photograph of a large hairy spider. Sub-editors please note.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN BARBER,
7 High Street,
Yelverton, Northamptonshire.

Seven up

From Mr T. J. Harper

Sir, As a bet on four selections in four races is known as a Yankee, should not a bet on seven selections in seven races now be known as a Frankie?

Yours sincerely,
TERRY HARPER,
54 Farleigh Avenue,
Trowbridge, Wiltshire,
September 30.

OBITUARIES

MAX MANUS

Max Manus, wartime Norwegian resistance fighter, died on September 20 aged 81. He was born in Bergen on December 9, 1914.

A well-known legendary hero of wartime Norwegian resistance, many of whose exploits would seem at home in an Alistair Maclean novel, Max Manus made his adventures the theme of two books he wrote after the war. He risked his life in a series of acts of sabotage during the German occupation of Norway from 1940 to 1945.

That he survived the war was, in his view, due less to skill than a great measure of luck. If so, it was a luck aided by intelligence, quick reactions and a nonchalant disregard for personal danger. "Others live on proteins and vitamins," he wrote in one of his books, "but my life has been based on adrenalin."

Manus's relentlessly pursued campaign against German occupying forces brought him to the top of Norway's resistance movement. He was involved in a variety of activities including sabotage, the underground press, counter-intelligence and propaganda directed against German soldiers. As a result he was high on the list of men the Germans wanted captured. But he always managed, sometimes by a mere hair's breadth, to escape.

Manus had just returned from the Winter War of 1939-40 in Finland, where he had fought as a volunteer against the invading Russians, when Germany attacked Norway. He took part in the armed resistance until Norway capitulated and then almost immediately became involved with the underground, particularly with the publication of clandestine newspapers.



Manus, front seat with sub-machinegun, as bodyguard to Crown Prince Olav on his return to Norway, May 1945

When the Quisling state police arrived at his flat in Oslo in January 1941 to arrest him he threw himself out of the window, but was captured and taken to hospital. But with only a matter of hours to spare before he was due to be passed to the custody of the Gestapo, Manus escaped with the aid of hospital staff and friends on the outside, and got away across the border to Sweden. An eventful journey halfway round the world took him to

Canada, then to Britain. Here he was trained in commando tactics and sabotage. In March 1943, as a member of the famous Company Line, he arrived back in Norway with the specific purpose of conducting naval sabotage.

With the use of limpet mines Manus and a friend, Gregers Gram, succeeded in sinking the German ships *Ortelburg* and *Tugela* (Operation Mardinius). Further acts of naval sabotage followed (Op-

eration Bundle, October 1943 to April 1944) and a failed attempt in June 1944 at sinking the troop carrier *Monte Rosa*. In January 1945 Manus's most spectacular and dramatic act of sabotage took place — the sinking of the troop carrier *Donau* in the Oslo Fjord. This was a ship which had been used for years to transport large numbers of Norwegian prisoners of war to concentration camps in Ger-

many. From the spring of 1944 Manus was one of the driving forces behind the Oslo Gang — a group working on behalf of Norway's military resistance — which performed a number of daring acts in the last year of the war. In May 1944, together with a team of Allies, Manus succeeded in destroying by fire the offices and archives of the Employment Service, nominally an organisation set up to prepare young people for work, in

reality a façade for the mobilisation of Norwegian men to serve as soldiers on the Eastern Front.

As the fire was just catching hold the police arrived on the scene. Manus told his accomplices to exit via the back while he, continuously firing his machine-pistol in the direction of the police, ran out of the main gate. Along the road he held up a passing cyclist demanding "your bicycle or your life", and got away.

A number of years in his youth had been spent in the West Indies and South America, where among other things he worked as a plantation manager and carpenter. Here he was also involved in the smuggling of weapons — a useful training for his later subversive activities. His two books, published in Norway immediately after the war, were later translated in English as *Underwater Saboteur* and *Nine Lives before Thirty*. They sold in vast numbers in Norway, and the income from them was used by Manus to found a successful computer and office equipment business where he employed many of his wartime colleagues.

When, at the end of the war, the King and his family returned to Norway from exile, Manus was appointed to guard Crown Prince Olav against snipers. If a grenade was thrown into the car carrying the prince, Manus's instruction was to throw himself on top of it.

For his war services Manus received Norway's highest gallantry award, the Norwegian War Cross. His funeral was attended by Olav's son, King Harald.

He is survived by his wife Tikkem, whom he had met during the war in Sweden, where she was working for the Norwegian consulate, helping to ease the plight of Norwegian fugitives in that country.

PAVEL SUDOPLATOV

Pavel Sudoplatov, former KGB officer, died in Moscow on September 24 aged 89. He was born in 1907.

ALTHOUGH the career of Pavel Sudoplatov could boast many signal achievements in the service of the Soviet State to which he was devoted, the story of his life never lost anything in the telling as long as he was the narrator. Thus, his 1994 autobiography, *Special Tasks: The Memoirs of an Unwanted Witness — A Soviet Spymaster*, though lapped up by Western media and serialised in *extenso* in at least one Sunday newspaper, had much of fragrant fiction about it.

Its most spectacular claim — that the father of the American atomic bomb, Robert Oppenheimer, and the nuclear physicist Niels Bohr, Enrico Fermi and Leo Szilard were all basically in KGB pay and leaked all there was to be known about making atom bombs at every stage of the Manhattan project — was swiftly debunked. It was demonstrated that various members of the cast in Sudoplatov's imaginary drama were not in fact where he said they were, when he said they were, and that therefore they could not have sent the traitorous messages he ascribed to them. Oppenheimer, who was head of the Los Alamos laboratory which built the bomb, though thought at one time to be a security risk for his left-wing leanings, has since been totally exonerated of any active — as opposed to merely intellectual — collusion with Communism.

If Sudoplatov has any real claim to notice in the pages of Soviet history, it is probably for his period as NKVD head of partisan administration during the war. In that job his organisation of partisan groups operating behind German lines was of considerable help to the Red Army after it had recovered from its defeats of 1941-42 and begun to advance westwards. From a faltering start in its attempts to sever railway communications behind the German front before the great tank battle of Kursk in the summer of 1943, partisan activity reached its apogee in the quality of the intelligence it provided for the offensive which relieved Leningrad in January 1944, after a siege of 880 days.

Sudoplatov's other service to the Soviet system belongs to the darker side of the Communist experience, since he was also in charge of organising the assassination of the CPSU's enemies, wherever they were to be found.

Pavel Sudoplatov's own career had begun in the Red Army with which he served as a boy soldier from the age of 12, when it was battling

against the various opponents of the Bolshevik regime during the Civil War of 1918-21. Soon his career was with the various predecessors of the KGB.

It began with the Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counter-Revolution and Sabotage (Cheka), which had taken over from the Tsarist Okhrana — and had used its files, prisons and in some cases even its agents. (Even as a senior KGB man Sudoplatov gloried in the title "Chekist".) Sudoplatov cut his teeth on operations directed against the Ukrainian nationalist movement, which had secured a fitful independence for the Ukraine from November 1917 until 1921, when it was subjugated by the Soviet Union — and was later to do so again seventy years later in the wake of the collapse of the USSR. As the Cheka became, successively, the GPU, the OGPU and then part of the NKVD (People's Committee of Internal Affairs), Sudoplatov's career progressed smoothly. In the 1930s he became head of the NKVD's Political Assassinations Branch. As such, he carried out the murders of those considered to be opponents of the regime, as well as acts of sabotage on the territory of other states. Among other things, he was in overall charge of the operation which eventually succeeded in doing Trotsky to death — albeit rather clumsily, and at that only on the second attempt — in Mexico in 1940, though it was his deputy, Major General Leonid Eitingov, who actually briefed the successful assassin, Ramon Mercader.

He continued active in this sphere in the immediate post-war period, but the death of Stalin was to bring his period of influence to an abrupt end. His close identification with Beria, the deeply loathed head of the NKVD, was his undoing. When, in a bold pre-emptive move designed to prevent him using his fear-some powers to destroy them, Malenkov, Khrushchev and other like-minded spirits had Beria seized and shot, Sudoplatov also fell into disgrace. Convicted of collaborating with Beria, he was condemned to 15 years in prison.

He was released in 1969 and in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union was rehabilitated in 1992. His memoirs, published in the West in 1994, caused something of a stir at that time. But a degree of scepticism about the veracity of the fevered imaginations of ex-KGB men set in soon afterwards and it became apparent that a good deal of what Sudoplatov asserted could not be given credence.

Sudoplatov's wife — also an NKVD officer — predeceased him. He is survived by a son.



HOPE TRENCHARD

Hope Trenchard, nurse, died of cancer on September 16 aged 60. She was born on June 21, 1936.

HOPE TRENCHARD knew at 16 that she wanted to be a nurse. She more than accomplished her ambition. During some 40 years dedicated to her profession, she was to supervise the nursing side of the transfer of St George's Hospital from its historic site at Hyde Park Corner to Tooting Bec, to serve as regional nursing officer to the South West Thames Region, and, after retirement, to do invaluable work for the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee, now the Florence Nightingale Foundation.

Hope Trenchard was born, the youngest of nine children, in Toledo, Spain, where her father was a Protestant missionary. But she was only six weeks old when the Spanish Civil War broke out and the family fled to England.

She went to University College Hospital, London, as a student nurse, staying on as staff nurse and a sister at the



St Pancras Hospital branch. She would have specialised in geriatric nursing had she not damaged her back. But she went on instead to qualify in tropical disease nursing, to do a midwifery training and to qualify and work as a health visitor.

Community work started her off on a career in nurse management in which she eventually rose to become the regional nursing adviser for the South West Thames regional health authority. It was

a time of great turmoil in the National Health Service with senior nurses having to apply anew for their posts and many losing their jobs in the process. Hope Trenchard was elected a member of council of the Royal College of Nursing but she never attained office in the nurses' largest trade union, perhaps because of her direct manner — she could be brutally truthful.

In 1991 she took early retirement owing to cancer. But in retirement she was appointed nursing adviser to the Florence Nightingale memorial committee, which provided scholarships for nurses to study both at home and abroad. She made a considerable impact in this post, gaining it new funds and instituting fellowships for past scholars.

Hope Trenchard adored cats and loved her Surrey garden. All her life she kept up her religious faith. She died suddenly, sitting in her armchair with a gin and tonic at her side. Her death seemed characteristic of her: quick and firm and no nonsense. She never married.

PROFESSOR JOHN CORNER

John Corner, FRS, Professor of Tropical Botany at Cambridge University, 1966-73, died on September 14 aged 90. He was born on January 12, 1906.

A DISTINGUISHED botanist, John Corner made a major contribution to the study of fungi as well as to the anatomy, biology and taxonomy of higher plants. His published work on fungi earned him an international reputation. He also spent several years in the Tropics during which time he not only worked indefatigably in the field, but also mounted one of the major difficulties confronted by any tropical botanist. He trained monkeys to collect flowers and fruits from the foliage of towering trees and throw them down to him.

Edred John Henry Corner was educated at Rugby where he first developed his interests as a naturalist, studying tadpoles and beetles in particular. He was also an outstanding rugby player. But his interest in science was always to surpass his interest in sport.

Going up to Cambridge, he was invited by the president of the university rugby club to play in the "freshers' match". Corner declined. He was committed to the laboratory that weekend, he said.

At Cambridge he spent his weekends in the countryside collecting specimens and in due course achieved double-firsts in the Natural Sciences Tripos. He then undertook research, guided by Professor F.T. Brooks and A.M. Church.

While he was a postgraduate Corner developed a desire to study botany in the Tropics and in 1929 took a job as the assistant director of the Botanic Gardens in Singapore. He was to remain there for 16 years, during which time he made frequent excursions into the forests of Malaya, studying trees. But he was shocked at the rain at which tropical rainforest was being felled. In 1940 he published his first book, *The Wayside Trees of Malaya*.

Corner was a resourceful man. Unable to scale the towering trunks himself to examine the flowers and fruits of trees, he trained monkeys to climb up for him, pick the specimens and throw them down. His simian assistants, he said, were the first apes in government service. He contributed greatly to knowledge of tropical trees and classified the species of that most difficult genus *Ficus* or figs.

During the Second World War, Malaya and Singapore were overrun by the Japanese and most of the British colonial servants interned in appalling conditions. Corner managed to get his wife and children away in a refugee ship, but the Governor ordered him to stay out to help to save the botanical gardens and museum. This he did with the assistance of William Birtwhistle, the director of fisheries, and of some Japa-

nese biologists who had been sent to take charge, although a few British internees were later to accuse him of collaboration.

Corner had a difficult time, though any suspicions about him were eventually allayed when in 1972 he was appointed CBE. He later went on to write a short book describing his experiences. *The Marquis: a tale of Syonantio*, which was published in 1981.

After the war was over, Corner went to work for Unesco in Brazil where he wrote his now famous "Duman Paper" on the origin of the modern tree, before returning to Britain in 1949 as a lecturer in botany at Cambridge University. In 1959 he was made Reader in plant taxonomy, and in 1959 was appointed a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College. In 1966 he was appointed Professor of Tropical Botany, a post which he was to hold until his retirement in 1973. During this time he not only proved a popular lecturer, but also continued to enhance his international reputation with the publication of a number of scholarly monographs and books.

In 1955 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society which awarded him its Darwin Medal in 1960. In 1966 he directed the Royal Society expedition to the Solomon Islands.

During his retirement he was invited to visit Japan on two occasions, firstly by the last Emperor, who was a keen biologist, and the second time by the Emperor Hirohito, who has inherited his father's interest in the natural world. He also continued to write, publishing a *Biographical Memoir of HM Hirohito, Emperor of Japan* in 1990 and *Botanical Monkeys* in 1992.

John Corner is survived by his wife Helga and by a son and two daughters of his first marriage.

3,000 TROOPS CRUSH RIOT IN MISSISSIPPI

From Our Special Correspondent

OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI, OCT. 1 The Federal Government established an iron grip on Oxford today after more than 12 hours' skirmishing with racial rioters, during which at least two persons lost their lives and about 75 were injured. Federal marshals, troops, and military policemen cleared the university campus by 4.30 this morning, and went on with their mopping up operations in the centre of the town where, after a brief gun battle, they cordoned off the main square and set up roadblocks around the town.

At the university administration building, where a nine-hour battle was fought with tear gas, stones, bottles, and fire hoses, nearly 200 prisoners were brought in with their hands up. They were stood up against a wall, frisked, and marched away handcuffed to await further action.

Rioting began at the University of Mississippi after it had been known that federal marshals had brought the Negro applicant, Mr. James Meredith, on to the campus; it continued throughout most of the night and early morning, with wave after wave of tear gas being thrown by federal forces against stone-throwing demonstrators, who wrecked

ON THIS DAY

October 2, 1962

Although a number of Civil Rights Acts had been passed in the late 19th century it was not until the enactment of President Johnson's Act of 1964 that civil rights became effective nationally.

and burned dozens of cars and partly flooded the campus with a fire hose.

Troops pursued the roving gangs of demonstrators to the centre of the town, driving them steadily back. At one point there was a burst of gunfire from a garage, the soldiers went for cover and returned the fire, shooting high. Several youths were seen rushing away, but this was the end of resistance, and the federal forces soon had a firm grip on the situation.

Today, at 8.30 a.m., James Meredith was officially enrolled in the university in the

administration building, in front of which the main battle took place last night, and which was still littered this morning with canisters and reeking with tear gas. Blood was splattered over the steps and the marshals' helmets. Outside the building tear gas shells, glass, bricks, paper, and burnt-out cars littered the ground while soldiers slept under trees and helicopters circled overhead.

Meredith walked to his first class this morning amid shouts of "Come on, nigger, smile!" "The blood is on your head". But the slight 29-year-old student of political science made only one comment: "This is not a happy occasion."

A Justice Department spokesman said that federal marshals would remain with him in his two-roomed flat "as long as his life is in danger".

The rioting began at about 7.30 in the evening, when a television reporter's car was surrounded and wrecked. State patrol men watched for a while before escorting the reporter and his wife from the car. Meredith's first class was in colonial history at 9 a.m., and he was due to attend other lectures during the day. On the way to the lecture room this morning he preserved outward calm, walking along in his grey suit and red tie in the middle of a phalanx of marshals armed with M. truncheons...

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FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

Cowboys not wanted

John Young on an industry that is working hard to clean up its act

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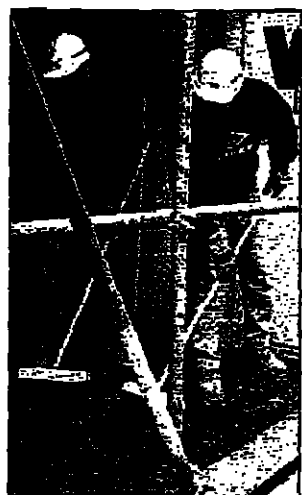
The public image of the building industry in Britain is not one of which it can be proud. Regardless of the merits of the end product, for which the architect usually gets the blame — or occasionally praise — the process of construction is regarded as, at best, an irritation and, at worst, a nightmare.

The industry's economic importance is indisputable. It accounts for more than 8 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product, with an annual turnover of nearly £50 billion, and it provides employment for more than 2.5 million people.

But for millions of home-owners the abiding horror is that of the "cowboy" builder who takes twice as long to do the job for which he is en-

gaged, charges twice as much as he originally estimated and greets any criticism of his work with outrage, and even abuse. When he is on a building site he is similarly foul-mouthed, and wears his trousers too low. Over 97 per cent of the 40,000 annual complaints to trading standards departments emanate from non-federated builders.

The Building Manager of the Year awards, presented last night in London, are an attempt to overcome that image. Their winners (see facing page) have gone to great lengths to provide a professional and considerate service. Indeed, there are many companies, both large and small, to which none of these criticisms would apply, which give value for money and whose employees behave responsibly



Builders are sweeping away their bad image

and considerably.

But, as so often, the rotten apples are those which attract attention, and the whole industry is damaged by the behaviour of a minority of its members.

It is a problem of which

industry leaders are well aware, none more so than Keith Banbury, chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Building. Nothing could be further removed from the dirt and noise of a building site than the secluded mansion outside Ascot, in Berkshire, where the institute has its offices. But it is from here that Mr Banbury and his colleagues are directing their efforts to cleaning up the construction industry's image.

"Construction is not environmentally friendly; we freely admit that," he says. "But what we want to do is to minimise its adverse effects."

"Broadly speaking the industry divides into two parts: the muddy boots and the professional. Unfortunately it's the muddy boots that get all the publicity, and we are out to redress the balance."

"Because the industry is so unregulated, anyone can set up as a builder," Mr Banbury says. "When he makes a mess

of it, someone else has to be called in to sort it out. But the public are also often to blame, because they try to get things done on the cheap rather than call in one of our members, for example."

Since the Privy Council approved the establishment of the Chartered Building Company scheme — the Council must authorise any use of the word "chartered" — it has met an enthusiastic response among the institute's 33,000 members.

Complementing it is the new Considerate Constructors scheme, which was introduced on a pilot basis at local level this summer.

"We see all this as being not only in our members' interest but in the public interest," Mr Banbury says. "We're not just a trade union or a trade association ready to defend our members at all costs. We've just thrown two of them out for breach of our code of conduct."



A close eye: Chartered Building Companies are pledged to maintain high standards

'No one can pull the wool over my eyes'

How does the president of the CIOB see its future?

When Tony Palmer asks his staff to do a job, he knows what he is talking about. As he says without a hint of boasting: "I can still do every job they do and they can't pull the wool over my eyes. I've been there."

Mr Palmer joined Taylor Woodrow at 16 and has been with the group ever since. He started as a junior surveyor and was sent to college to qualify as a chartered surveyor and chartered builder.

He knows about life at the bottom. When he was five at the end of the war, his family was bombed out of their home in Deptford, South London, and left with nothing. They were rehoused in an Anderson shelter and then with two Tower Road families in a semi-detached house.

Next year he will retire at 60. The top. He has been chief executive of Taylor Woodrow for the past eight years and

will leave the company in good shape. This year he has been president of the Chartered Institute of Builders (CIOB).

He hopes to pass the flame on to a younger man, but he is not burning even more brightly. Despite the recession, membership has continued to grow and now stands at 33,000. He believes that it will continue to grow to 60,000 over the next ten years.

The industry has changed and so must the institute, he argues. Although professional bodies are often seen from outside as genteel and stuffy, Mr Palmer retains the competitive spirit that has seen him rise through the ranks.

"The institute is the natural home of constructors and construction specialists," he says. "It brings together all types in the construction process from facilities managers to project managers. We are among the top three or four institutes and we want to be the premier one."



Tony Palmer says: "I am the product of a training scheme. If we don't train we don't prosper"

More than ever the standing of an institute depends on its reputation and status as well as the number of members. To say you are a chartered builder, it does matter on your CV,

is something that differentiates one person from another. Mr Palmer argues that there is now greater emphasis in building and construction on management of the team.

"One topic that is almost certain to ignite passions is the question of the institute's name and the title used by our members," he says. "Our name has served us very well for a long time and I know that the vast majority of our members share my pride in being associated with the Chartered Institute of Building. However, just as the industry is undergoing a radical re-examination of its structure and identity, so the time has come for us to reconsider whether the terms building and builder still provide an adequate umbrella for the many different professional activities carried out by our members."

In July the institute set up a partnership agreement with the smaller Architects and Surveyors Institute. While the two bodies will remain independent with their own professional qualifications, dual

membership is being encouraged and the CIOB sees this as a first step towards developing an alliance of professional institutions in construction.

Mr Palmer thinks that the difficult past six or seven years have made membership of an institute more important as reputable members of the industry distance themselves from the cowboys. He regards the term "builder" as an honourable one, but he says that the CIOB is a construction institute and that should be reflected in the name.

It is year in office sees the formal launch of a new training scheme.

"This comes at a time when most of the companies I have known have disbanded their training centres, creating a vacuum which the CIOB now has an opportunity to fill," he says. "When the hard times came, training was easy to cut. I didn't like that because I am the product of a training scheme. If we don't train we don't prosper."

The CIOB has set up its own centre which produces courses designed to meet the needs of individual companies. Mr Palmer says: "It is like having an in-house centre but it is in the institute building. Companies say what they want and the institute arranges it and gives them the time and the venue. All they have to do is send the people and pay the bill."

Mr Palmer does not see an easy road ahead for the construction industry. He says: "Things are happening and the industry is doing slightly better, but we don't want to shoot up a graph and fall off the end again."

RODNEY HOBSON

A lesson well learnt

If anyone carries the construction industry's torch, it is Dean D'Eve. Born 30 years ago in Brixton, south London, by his own admission he squandered most of his time at school and at Lambeth College of Building. A change of heart took him back to college where he progressed from City & Guilds to Bachelor of Science, and in 1990 he founded his own company, Kered Contracting Limited, with £1,000 savings.

To start with he ran the company from his spare bedroom, determined to both "achieve the highest possible standards" and to put something back into the inner-city community. Last year he won the construction industry's Young Achiever of the Year Award.

One of his most cherished accolades is membership of the Chartered Institute of Building. "Our status as a Chartered Building Company (CBC) has meant that clients look upon us as professionals," he says. "It has helped immensely in getting Kered's name on to tender lists and has contributed significantly to our development."

"But I think over the years the scheme can do much more. We're an under-educated industry. We should be helping medium-sized firms with their training, teaching them to manage cashflow, write business plans and learn



Dean D'Eve: great plans

the art of delegation. Eventually I'd like to see an accreditation body, awarding building firms stars, like the AA does."

Mr D'Eve's commitment to improving standards and to the local community is reflected in his launch of a code of practice for sub-contractors and his sponsorship of training facilities for young people. He has also promoted the employment of women in the construction industry.

Kered specialises in refurbishment and maintenance for housing associations, NHS trusts and local authorities, but it has also won contracts from a number of leading commercial companies. In its first year its turnover was £70,000. This has since grown to an estimated £43 million in 1995-96.

JOHN YOUNG

Five football clubs who gained promotion relied on this man's skills.



No, he doesn't possess shooting abilities that would shock Alan Shearer, nor ball control to astound Paul Gascoigne.

He's not even employed in football. He's a member of a Taylor Woodrow Construction team.

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And finally there's the Oxford United who, when we clinched a £12.5 million contract to build their new stadium, were promptly promoted to the first division.

But it's not only in the world of football stadia that we are in a league of our own.

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For the full story, please contact Claire Winterhood, Taylor Woodrow Group, Taywood House, 345 Ruislip Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 2QX. Telephone: 0181-575 4170. <http://www.taywood.co.uk>

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Taking pride in the site

THE Building Manager of the Year awards, "Oscars" of the construction industry, were presented in London last night by Eamonn Holmes, host of GMTV, the breakfast television show. The awards, sponsored by The Times, Color Gas and Construction Manager magazine, are in their 18th year. They are divided into three categories according to the size of project, although as John Yadoo, chairman of the judges, put it: "Good management can be applied to a project whatever its value. Many of the projects have outstanding designs but we are judging the person, not the building."

TIM RENWICK

BUILDING MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Category 2 is for involvement in projects costing between £5 million and £25 million. Mr Renwick won gold in this section.

BUILDING an extension to a working airport has won Mr Renwick the CIOB's Building Manager of the Year title (Stephen Hoare writes). Masterminding construction of Gatwick airport's new £18.5 million South Terminal international departure lounge, Mr Renwick made sure the 3,000 passengers an hour who streamed through were never aware they were walking through a building site.

Working for Mace, one of several pure project management companies invited by the BAA (formerly British Airports Authority) to bid, Mr Renwick headed a small team

of a dozen project managers and cost planners. Mace won the contract on a design and construction management basis. Less adversarial than management contracting, Mace appointed its own design team but managed the client-appointed trade contractors. He sums up his own contribution: "We adopted a policy of total openness with the trade contractors to build a positive no-blame culture."

Mr Renwick, 38, in the best industry traditions, has risen through the ranks. Apprenticed as a bricklayer to a local Yorkshire builder, he won the Guild of Bricklayers Silver Trowel award for getting the highest marks nationally in his City & Guilds. Going on to Leeds Poly, he gained first-class honours in Building. An MBA followed, as did management jobs with Balfour Beatty and Mowlem.

Moving from construction into property development, Mr Renwick worked briefly

for Rosehaugh on a big office complex at Ludgate Hill.

Having an architect and structural and mechanical and electrical engineers on the design team gave Mr Renwick great control of the project — essential in an airport environment where scheduling was vital.

The project started in December, 1992, and took 80 weeks, during which Mr Renwick had to make weekly presentations on the work's progress to the various stakeholders in the scheme. He produced 3D graphics from architects' drawings and gathered feedback. Mace maintained a flexible approach because the project evolved to include major changes such as a new commercially important travellers (CIT) lounge and additional retail spaces.

Key to the project was value engineering, now a cornerstone of BAA procurement strategy. Mr Renwick believes he has saved the client

£900,000 on earlier estimates, mainly by revising specifications to produce value in areas such as cladding and floor finishes.

Mace undertook a nine-week feasibility study to produce a concept design that won BAA's approval. The construction project itself involved managing a new-build extension alongside the existing terminal, then building up and over to add an extra two storeys. Finally, the existing terminal buildings were refurbished in keeping with the new facilities.

The site presented more than a few problems — involving security clearance for "airside" working as well as complicated temporary works to segregate the travelling public from the works in progress. Building underneath an emergency flight path meant that there was only one possible location for the site's tower crane, which then had to be more or less shoehorned into position. Works had to be carefully phased and managed to avoid disruption and as the extension involved lifting the roof over the baggage handling hall and departure lounge, large-scale temporary works were needed.

This involved building a temporary crash deck a metre below the existing roof. This was supported on scaffolding built up from steel beams bolted to the building's frame. The crash deck had to support workers dismantling the roof and also had to provide full weather protection while the extension was being built and until a new roof was in place.

In the departure lounge, Mace hung a new suspended ceiling from the temporary roof so that passengers were never aware of the work being carried on above their heads. Temperature and air quality were carefully controlled so comfort was maintained. Mr Renwick comments: "Even at the height of the building work, passengers never realised they were in the middle of a building site. We carried on over and above them."

BOB CROSS

Category 3 involves projects costing up to £5 million. Mr Cross won gold.

ACCORDING to Bob Cross, project management is "about relationships — people being honest with each other."

It seems to have done the trick at Abermoris, south Wales, where Tarmac won a negotiated design-and-build contract for a £4.4 million speculative office development on a former colliery tip site.

An important element of the scheme was an imaginative solution to the problem of unstable ground. Even though the tip had been removed, the site was covered by 4 metres of loose clinker. Mr Cross opted

for ground compaction rather than the more expensive piling. The entire site was stripped of its overburden, which was rolled into layers. The buildings were then constructed on concrete rafts.

A negotiated contract meant that Tarmac could organise the project without going to competitive tender.

Now completed, the two office blocks are occupied by

the DSS Benefits Agency and one of South Wales's biggest firms of solicitors, Hugh, Jones, James & Jenkins.

BOYD MCFEE

Category 1 is for projects exceeding £25 million. Mr McFee won gold.

MANAGING the extension to a microchip fabrication plant,

Mr McFee saw the scope of the works increased by 60 per cent, yet still managed to complete the job and hand over within the original contract period.

Mr McFee coped by splitting the contract into a series of self-contained projects, all under his ultimate control.

He explains: "We didn't run it as a dictatorship. Once everyone understood the basic guidelines, I gave younger managers their head."

Mr McFee had managed an earlier project for Motorola and understood the client's way of working. Manufacturing chips is a process, to be carried out in a super-clean environment, so having the builders on site can cause problems. Mr McFee's solution was to tie the new building to the existing one by expansion joints. During the transition phase, construction work was contained within hermetically sealed temporary partitions. As the new clean rooms were built, so ventilation and air-filter systems were ramped up.

In the end, only fully trained workers wearing special dust-free overalls were given clearance to work in sensitive areas. Both Mr McFee's and McAlpine's attention to detail have paid off. The same team is working on other projects for Motorola in Scotland as the company's expansion in Silicon Glen proceeds apace.

Stars of the IT system

A new award to promote the use of information technology in the construction industry was presented in London last night to Richard Woodman-Bailey and Geoff Seed, both of R. Mansell Ltd. of Croydon.

They won the IT Business Manager of the Year award, sponsored by Computer Systems for Business (CSB), for the development, implementation, design and management of a system providing financial control of projects.

Using an IBM AS Central 400 system as a backbone, their main objective was to prevent any serious underperformance in ongoing contracts. The system also standardises cost control and provides access to cost-benefit analysis.

Peter Miller, chairman of the judges, said the system had improved customer satisfaction and profitability.

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THE YEAR'S WINNERS

CATEGORY 1: Gold: Boyd McFee (Motorola, East Kilbride). Silver: Robert Clarke (99 Bishopsgate, London). Bronze: Ivor Simmons (Brent Cross Shopping Centre, north London).

CATEGORY 2: Gold: Tim Renwick (South Terminal, international departure lounge, Gatwick). Silver: Charles Baldwin (Clinical Neurosciences, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham). Bronze: Mark Richardson (Manchester Crown Courts).

CATEGORY 3: Gold: Bob Cross (Abermoris office development, Merthyr Tydfil). Silver: Rex Schofield (Hackthorpe police HQ, Sheffield). Bronze: Stephen Turner (London Planetarium).

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Euan Williamson, Group Security Adviser, The Boots Company Plc

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Speakers include: Mike McLaughlin, Chief Security Adviser, Rolls-Royce; Trevor Littlecott, UK Security Manager, IBM; Iain Jack, Head of Security, British Airways; Jennie Azzi, Manager of Theft, Loss & Security, Marks & Spencer; Richard Paver, Facilities Manager, British Petroleum; Euan Williamson, Group Security Adviser, Boots; Robin Fredjohn, Company Loss Prevention Manager, BHS Stores; John Smith, Group Security Adviser, Prudential Plc; Barry Hughes-Jones, UK Security Manager, DEC; Brian Wood, Emergency Planning Officer, LB Tower Hamlets; Tony Whittaker, Trust Security Adviser, Manchester NHS Trust; Tom Weston, Headteacher, Shavington Primary School; Dennis Willets, Head of IT Security, British Telecom.

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Today's intrusion will be tomorrow's historical record

Don't close your eyes to the news

THIS week sees fresh attempts to learn the lessons of Dunblane. A seminar, Reporting Disasters, was held in London yesterday by the Association of British Editors. Today the British Film Institute opens a three-day conference on the use of newsfilm, in which Katie Adie, among others, will discuss the ethics of violent news on television.

The lesson, however, lies in between the two perspectives. As the BFI's *Story of the Century* will demonstrate, today's intrusive reporting is tomorrow's historical record.

This paradox lies at the heart of the report on Dunblane just published by the British executive of the International Press Institute. It shows that the press can be massively intrusive without behaving badly. In any small town, let alone a disaster site, the arrival of 300 journalists and their clobber is tantamount to an invasion.

Where does their moral duty lie when they find themselves moved to the point of tears?

To Richard Tait, ITN's Editor-in-Chief, Dunblane was "an almost uniquely shocking event".

Sadly, that is not true. The BFI's new films show how common horror is, even in a British setting. Four people huddled round a schoolyard waiting for a dead news look back to Aberfan, 1966.

For hatred of the media for recording the horror, there was Farnborough, 1952. When a supersonic jet fighter broke up in mid-air and an engine plunged into the crowd, killing 28 people, David Samuelson, the *Movietone* News photographer, was attacked by the crowd to stop him filming.

Who would forgo those images today? In the flickering black-and-white footage, we see more than grief. We see the look of a South Wales valley village when there still was a mining industry. We see what early 1950s children wore when dressed up for a day's outing. We see the smiling confidence in supersonic flight of the pilots climbing into their doomed aircraft. These pictures may have intruded on private grief at the time. They are now historic documents.

Yet some things have changed irrevocably. Photographic equipment is unbelievably lighter, while the press corps is bigger: massively so, and international, ready to descend at a moment's notice from corners of the globe, with no knowledge of, let alone sensitivity to, local feelings.

That the press escaped from Dunblane without being driven out by an angry mob (and with only a totally inappropriate reproof to ITN from the Broadcasting Standards Council for interviewing the

assassin's mother) was owed to two uncharacteristic acts of self-restraint. One was the collective decision of editors not to interview the bereaved families and to leave Dunblane before the funerals.

The other was the acceptance of the usually despised figure of the official minder. The IPI report rings with praise for the police, British Telecom and the Scottish Office, for helping the press to do its job.

The lesson of Dunblane is that disasters in this news-competitive age need spin-doctors. If a man who finds that his partner is expecting octuplets needs a Max Clifford, so does Pompeii the day that Vesuvius blows its top. (The BFI conference will see fabulous footage of the 1944 eruption.)

Reliance on spin-doctors, of course, is poison to the journalist. So too is collective action. Even at mundane events, I hate to see reporters huddling together at the end, agreeing on the main news and the actual words of a quote.

And occasionally the "pool" on major occasions with limited access — a small representative band acting for a larger number — has been regarded as an unfortunate necessity. Now, such is the crush of newsgatherers, the pool may become the norm.

But I wouldn't put the clock back. A proliferation of news outlets is a good thing. What counts is what the reporter makes of what he or she sees — and, in television, what their editors allow the public to see.

Not enough. Martin Bell, the BBC's veteran foreign correspondent, is heroically outspoken on the sanitisation of television news. Reporters, he says, are not allowed to show the blood and pain of war.

He has also hit out against the pernicious concept of 24-hour rolling news. Amen. Nothing is more guaranteed to cause press intrusion than pressure to find a new angle for the next deadline.

If the ethics of television news are to be endlessly debated, the viewing public must recognise its part. There must be a greater tolerance for the spectacle of grief.

It is not pornography to show people weeping wildly when getting the news that everyone dreads. It is racist to accept pictures of wailing in Baghdad or Rwanda but not in Britain.

It is time to abandon the "Is there honey still for tea?" approach to television news. Whether the horror is leaders hanging from lampposts in Kabul or bodies being carried out of Dunblane school, we have no right to look away.



BRENDA MADDOX

Leading bright of Albert Square

GLUM faces have been spotted in the costume department at Elstree studios in Borehamwood. News has reached staff that Nigel Bates, the professional fool of Albert Square, is soon to depart EastEnders for pastures new.

The reason for their melancholy, however, is not that they will miss Paul Bradley, the actor who plays Nigel in the BBC soap. It is rather that they will miss his outfits.

Rooting out a selection of garish shirts and luminous kipper ties of the type favoured by the hapless Nigel has proved one of the precious few creative tasks of EastEnders costume workers who watched Ricky Butcher wear the same blue overalls and Pauline Fowler the same tatty maroon overcoat and matching scarf for five years.

A campaign has apparently



Nigel Bates: garish shirts

already begun to transfer Nigel's natty wardrobe to his bosom friend, Grant Mitchell.

NOT content with turning the once socialist *Daily Mirror* blue for a day, Pepsi is now turning to a far more loveable institution, *Father Christmas*. Eager to steal a march on their deadly rivals at Coca-Cola, the Pepsi admen are rumoured to be drawing up a Yuletide campaign in which Santa's traditional red cloak turns a wintry blue.

The idea is more cunning than it seems. In 1931 it was Coca-Cola which hired the

artist Haddon Sundblom to produce a picture of Santa in the red and white company colours, an image which has since become universally recognisable.

But the feeling is that the £300 million Project Blue has not been as successful as hoped. According to Campaign magazine it has resulted in a slight drop in Pepsi sales while Coca-Cola claims to have won the day with its sponsorship of Euro 96.

Brand new votes

WHAT do Marks & Spencer, Virgin and the Andrex puppy have in common? According to a new survey, they are the British brands which the public considers to be more reliable and trustworthy than Tony Blair.

In the week of the Labour Party conference, the Superbrands Council has released findings from a survey of advertising brands which showed that people find PG Tips more stimulating and exciting than either Labour or the Conservative Party.

No surprises there perhaps, but one piece of research is interesting. Tony Blair and John Major are now apparently almost indistinguishable from each other in the electorate's eye. When asked to

profile each party leader by the brands they might use, members of the public imagined that both drive BMWs, both read *The Economist* and drink John Smith's bitter, both holiday with Thomas Cook and both wear Calvin Klein "although John Major might just opt for Yardley".

"If anything Tony Blair was perceived as slightly more upmarket than Mr Major," said a spokesman.

ENEMIES of Alastair Campbell, press secretary to Tony Blair, will be disappointed if they hoped Mondays' spin-doctor-bashing *Panorama* programme had helped to scupper his career.

On the contrary, Campbell's star is so much in the ascendancy that Mr Blair is being urged to promote him to even greater heights as a Sarah Hogg-type special adviser should Labour win the next election.

Hotly tipped to step into the Campbell shoes is the jolly media commentator Roy Greenlade who, while lacking Campbell's intellectual pretensions, does have a solid background in tabloid newspapers (having worked at the *Sun*, *Daily Mirror* and *Daily Star*) and is a protégé of the news bunny himself, Kelvin



Alastair Campbell: top tip

MacKenzie.

Campbell's foes will be doubly frustrated if this does happen — Greenlade is also one of Campbell's closest friends.

Down the street

AFTER 26 years of faithful service, the producers of *Sesame Street* have finally made a concession to their British fans. To coincide with the new series to be shown on Channel 4, approved sets of costumes for Big Bird and Ernie are being shipped over to be used for celebrity appearances at charity events.

Spending boom masks slim profits



The Bisto Kids are being "retired"

BUOYANT news from adland: clients spent more money, agencies made better profits, and more people were employed in the industry in 1995, according to a new study by the specialist accountancy firm, Willott Kingston Smith.

On paper, it was the best year since the start of the decade. The highest-paid director, WPP's Martin Sorrell, collected a chunky £2,647,000 remuneration package — up an encouraging 12.5 per cent on 1994 — while the industry's gross income increased by 9 per cent and the number of employees rose by 5 per cent.

But beneath the shiny figures lurks a slightly grimmer tale. The stats do not distinguish between advertising agencies and other marketing services companies, thus masking what has been a "serious shift" in client cash away from ad agencies in favour of direct marketing and media independents, says the firm.

And of the seemingly impressive £20

ADVERTISING

billion marketing spend, the industry in total made only £191 million in profits before tax — a margin of less than 1 per cent. No real reason for a return to 1980s-style champagne-drenched festivities, therefore.

TALKING of money, actors are bracing themselves for the new round of negotiations that will set their pay levels for starring roles in ads over the next five years.

In a few weeks' time the actors' union, Equity, will sit down with representatives from the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers and the Advertising Film and Videotape Producers Association, no less, to begin thrashing out the details of the new agreement.

Talks should be of a fairly colourful nature. The last time the bodies met, in

1991, negotiations lasted for 12 months as the sides scrapped over the controversial move to replace the repeat fee system with a payment scheme that was audience-related.

ANOTHER advertising icon bites the dust. The 80-year-old Bisto Kids, as it were, have been brutally dropped and replaced by Julie Walters as the new Bisto face.

Ms Walters plays Yvonne, a Delta Smith-lookalike daytime TV celebrity chef, who introduces the celebrated gravy granules in a new £5.2 million press and TV campaign as "altogether a better idea than doing something out of a book with giblets".

Meanwhile, we are assured that reports of the death of another advertising icon, Direct Line's red wheely telephone, were greatly exaggerated.

The phone will be safe in the hands of its new agency, Mortimer Whitaker O'Sullivan, which won the £13 million account off TBWA last week.

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On the front line in Dunblane

Journalists who reported on the slaughter at Dunblane Primary School on March 13 faced the most traumatic event imaginable. How have they coped?



THIS week the British executive of the International Press Institute published a collection of memoirs from the journalists who covered the Dunblane massacre. Peter Preston, its chairman, asked them to detail their emotions and experiences for the book, *Dunblane: Reflecting Tragedy*, "to capture the feeling of what it was like, the real building block for future policy". Here two journalists, one Scottish and one London-based, who covered the story for *The Times*, recall their experiences.

GILLIAN BOWDITCH

When I was asked last May to write my own memoirs of covering the Dunblane massacre, I was glad of the opportunity. Since the killings two months earlier I had thought of very little else.

I live in Stirling, five miles from Dunblane and a stone's throw from Thomas Hamilton's flat. My husband is a consultant psychiatrist for the area. When we moved to the Forth Valley three years ago we unsuccessfully offered on a house three doors down from Dunblane Primary School.

This tragedy happened in my own community. Neighbours, friends and my husband's colleagues were involved and there was no possibility of my jettisoning it with the rest of the press pack once the immediate story had been covered. But even without the constant geographical reminders, it would have been impossible to banish Dunblane from my mind.

There is a particular difficulty in reporting a tragedy in your own community. The size of the press corps in a town the size of Dunblane meant intrusion was inevitable. Toes get stepped on and feelings get trampled unintentionally. If those feelings and toes belong to friends, it is exceedingly difficult.

Practically every friend and acquaintance had a story to

tell. My husband arrived home with news of the first psychotic patient who believed herself responsible. He told me of a local GP whose five-year-old daughter attended the same nursery class as the victims. He was planning to attend nine funerals, with his daughter.

My next-door neighbour, also a doctor, told how one of her colleagues, a pathologist, had been helping with the medical emergency only to discover that her own daughter was one of the dead.

The problems of reporting something so huge when it is happening in your own community are obvious. You cannot put 300 journalists into a town the size of Dunblane without intruding. Journalistic instincts and personal instincts clashed. There was satisfaction at doing a job well, in being on top of an incredible news story. But there was also huge grief. I found it a terribly harrowing time.

Then there was the peculiar juxtaposition of work and domesticity. I was grateful to return home each evening to my husband and child, not to some anonymous hotel room: but how, the day after the massacre, could I concentrate on my daughter's second birthday?

Mr Preston's request allowed me to examine in a less fragmented way the im-



A town in torment: parents in Dunblane in shock after the tragedy — most journalists were themselves grief-stricken, as they wrestled with the problem of how to report the story

compact and lessons of Dunblane, but it was remarkably difficult to write a piece for the book. There was always the risk of bathos and yet I welcomed a chance to express some of the grief that I had seen among the press corps and had experienced myself.

Now that this book has been published, I realise that my own experience and concerns were largely the same as every other journalist working on the story. Those with children felt deeply empathetic. Everyone felt grief-stricken, everyone wrestled with the problem of how to report the story fully without intruding more than was necessary, and everyone felt relief when the media collectively pulled out of Dunblane five days after the killings.

There has been considerable debate about the behaviour of the journalists reporting Dunblane, and while the people of Dunblane may tell another story, I saw very little which made me want to distance myself from colleagues on other papers. On

the contrary, reporters co-operated with each other, I witnessed no bickering and everyone, from the most seasoned tabloid hack to the most junior local paper reporter, seemed deeply affected by what they were writing.

With just about everyone it was the most harrowing story they had worked on and the decision taken collectively in response to requests from churchmen and politicians to pull out of Dunblane on the day of the first funeral was unique and remarkable given the increasing competition between titles.

Is such media co-operation likely to happen again? I doubt it and I hope not. I hope neither myself nor my colleagues ever have to cover another story of the magnitude and horror of Dunblane where one seemingly ordinary member of the community could calculate how to choose as his victims the most innocent and best-loved members of society and obliterate them with a brutality unimaginable to the rest of us.

STEPHEN FARRELL

I had never heard of Dunblane before March 13 and I am not a parent, so my first response to the massacre was inevitably less visceral than Gillian's.

But even on the flight-up from Heathrow it was obvious from the muted, sombre behaviour of the assembled journalists that this story was different.

Dunblane was a major tragedy and most of us probably wanted to cover it ourselves rather than read colleagues' accounts from 400 miles away. But everyone knew they were flying into a concentration of grief and horror that few had ever encountered, and none of us knew how we would cope.

What we knew was how such situations magnify a thousandfold the impact of one insensitive action or remark.

My immediate task was to

concentrate on the life and times of Thomas Hamilton, but with no immediate leads I headed with a photographer for Dunblane Primary School.

We were barely out of the car when an elderly lady stopped us. Experience told us that camera bags and notebooks normally invite a volley of abuse, but instead she simply asked if we knew anything. Many locals, it later emerged, were simply frustrated at the lack of information coming from police and found journalists their only source of news.

Journalism in such circumstances has its own problems. Usually the police are several steps ahead of the press "pack" and reporters must wait hours to learn names and addresses.

But Dunblane and Stirling are small communities, and the sheer number of correspondents flooding the area

meant they were running ahead of police almost from the start.

Aware of this, newsdesks in London, Glasgow and Edinburgh were desperately trying to agree guidance for their staff on the ground, but for the moment reporters had only their own instincts to tell them who should and should not be approached, and which questions should be left unasked.

In fact, common sense dictated what to do. Nobody wanted to trample on grief, and most reporters were experienced enough to know what was acceptable. Over the next few days papers agreed not to approach the victims' families, and to cobble together tributes to the dead from other sources.

All was not perfect. Rumours circulated of the odd flare-up between journalists and staff in an hotel, or the occasional unthinking comment over dinner tables in restaurants, but they never became public incidents.

Then as quickly as it erupted, the story disappeared. On

day five Central Scotland Police suddenly withdrew all media facilities in the town, saying the families did not want us at the forthcoming funerals. The evacuation vans, hundreds of yards of cable and batteries of microphones vanished in minutes.

In common with most newspapers, *The Times* had no intention of defying the families' wishes and we were ordered out. Five minutes after the decision I strode out of the press hall in Dunblane.

Two months later I was back, for Lord Cullen's public inquiry. The same people we interviewed in the hours after the tragedy told their tales again. Those who knew Hamilton well were by now down-playing their knowledge. Those who had little to do with him exaggerated their roles. For some the calm, legal atmosphere provided detail and some catharsis, but I certainly felt no closer to knowing what went on in one man's mind on March 13. I still have no idea.

Triumph for the press

The front page of *The Guardian* yesterday will become a classic of British journalism. It was dominated by a four-column picture of Neil Hamilton, the Conservative MP. Above, across eight columns, Mr Hamilton was described as "A liar and a cheat".

We all know that there are cheats and liars in British public life but Britain's libel laws are so strict that liar, cheat, corruption and deceit are words we rarely see in newspaper headlines. But yesterday *The Guardian* was celebrating a great victory for investigative journalism after Mr Hamilton and Ian Greer, the parliamentary lobbyist, decided to withdraw from a £10 million libel suit against the paper.

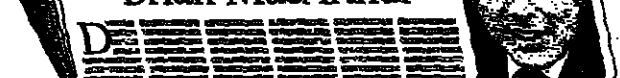
They had sued *The Guardian* over its report in 1994 — when Peter Preston was Editor — that Mr Hamilton had accepted thousands of pounds for asking parliamentary questions for Mohamed Al Fayed's Harrods group and that Mr Greer was the middleman.

An elated Alan Rusbridger, now Editor of *The Guardian*, was entitled to his triumph (which he shared with Mr Preston and which was also unusually relished by his Fleet Street rivals). Editing is always a lonely job but never more lonely than when an editor is fighting a libel suit which could cost his company £10 million. That is half the £20 million pre-tax profit *The Guardian* Media Group declared this week.

Mr Rusbridger also confronted a seemingly intimidating opponent in Mr

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur



Hamilton, who appeared utterly confident of victory and determined to destroy *The Guardian*. He was so confident that he recruited 421 Conservative MPs and peers to overturn a clause in the 1689 Bill of Rights and support an amendment to the new Defamation Bill allowing MPs to waive parliamentary privilege to pursue libel actions. Only last month he boasted that he would expose *The Guardian's* "corruption" and its peddling of "sensational fantasy".

Yet it was not sensational fantasy on the part of *The Guardian* but old-fashioned reporting skills that did for Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer. After a tip to Mr Preston, the first report on Mr Greer, heavily cut by its lawyers, was published by *The Guardian* three years ago. It followed a six-week investigation by David Hencke and John Mullin who traced about 15 of his former staff. Mr Hencke then co-operated with *The Cook Report* who begged Mr Greer as he offered to work for actors masquerading as Russian communists seeking access to Whitehall. The report was abandoned by television but published in *The Guardian*. The story appeared on the day that John Smith died and failed to make the impact it deserved.

After meeting Mr Al Fayed, Preston decided to go public again in October 1994.

all 20 companies. On one day, Mr Robertson asked for 84 research documents.

It was detective work and it got more and more exciting, Mr Hencke said yesterday, especially as several deep throats emerged among staff who had been upset by their treatment by Mr Greer. The team obtained Mr Greer's company accounts and Mr Hamilton's bank accounts. They decided to subpoena John Major and Michael Heseltine. The tactic worked.

The most exhilarating day for *The Guardian* was last Friday when 150 pages, including details of Mr Hamilton's cross-examination by party whips, Michael Heseltine and Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, arrived from Downing Street. It was only then that they knew they would win.

With the documents from Downing Street, Mr Robertson decided to exploit what libel lawyers describe as the "Cousins gambit" — lulling the plaintiffs into a sense of false security by letting them drop the action with only a £15,000 contribution to the defendant's costs — and then dunning them with supporting details obtained during preparation of the defence — as *The Guardian* did yesterday.

The courage of Mr Preston, Mr Rusbridger and *The Guardian* in keeping their nerve under fire did a significant service for the British press. Guilty men once thought suits for libel against Fleet Street offered rich and easy pickings. After this victory and that front page, they will think very hard before seeking to emulate Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer.



The Guardian yesterday

Cilla works her magic, but ITV rethinks the weekend

THERE was a huge sigh of collective relief within ITV this week: Cilla had pulled it off. The first estimates of audiences for Saturday night showed that *Blind Date*, which started its twelfth series at the weekend, had attracted more than ten million viewers.

The curse afflicting ITV's so-called "people shows", which has been hitting the ratings this year, ran only so far. *Blind Date*, which sprang from a 1980s impulse to make temporary stars of ordinary people, was still lively enough, like a sprightly granny.

Most critically, ITV had, by a thin margin, won a larger share than arch-rival BBC1. But the evidence that commercial television is having a rethink and is reducing its reliance on people shows is only too apparent. Marcus Plautin, ITV's network director in charge of a £600 million annual programme budget, used a glibby programme launch last week to drop heavy hints to its paymasters, the advertisers, that its weekend schedule was being taken apart.

In the search for a new balance, ITV is having to face up to some harsh truths. One is that LWT's ability (as the traditional weekend programming powerhouse) to come forward with new hits across the range of entertainment and drama suddenly evaporated in the 1990s with conse-

quences all too obvious. Quite why creativity dried up is a matter for debate: the "golden handcuff" share options were supposed to ensure continuity. The ITV programme performance review for 1995 sounded a warning about over-reliance on proven successes. This has been even more cruelly exposed because it coincided with a newly confident BBC1, whose scheduling of the National Lottery and *Casualty* has carved into Saturdays.

With LWT's takeover by Granada now behind it, a total rethink has been facilitated. *Ice Warriors* (Gladiators on ice and its potential replacement) is under development. Three new drama series are either in production or ready for screening. One is a two-hour treat, along the lines of *Inspector Morse* or *A Touch of Frost*.

The most interesting development is a weekend series, *Staying Alive*, about the private lives of nurses cursed by a stalker. This is ITV's attempt to make compelling but budget hospital drama without expensive stars and lavish budgets: it will cost about one tenth of a classic ITV drama. It signals a return to the virtues of a strong plot and well written dialogue: human interest at game show rather than people show prices.

MAGGIE BROWN

OFFER & COMPETITION THE TIMES

BUY ONE BOOK TO GET ONE FREE

The Times is offering students one of 10 books FREE when you buy a book from either the Penguin Classic series or the Penguin 20th Century Classics list from a Blackwell's bookshop before November 30, 1996. The list of free books is on the voucher which was published in *Freshers, Guide to Student Life*, delivered free with Monday's Times. All the details of this offer are on page 10 of the Guide. You need to collect a further three tokens to add to the one which appears on the voucher.



Win your rent for a year

Blackwell's Bookshops, in association with Penguin Books and The Times, offers you the chance to win a cheque for £2,000 towards your rent — and there are three cheques to be won. Simply collect three of the six tokens in *The Times* this week. Attach them to the prize draw entry form (published on Monday) and send it with your name, address, course and institution to: Win Your Rent Prize Draw, PO Box 8381, London SE7 7ZL. You must be a full-time student. Closing date: November 1, 1996.

THE TIMES
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TOKEN 3

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2 FOR 1 BOOKS
TOKEN 3

CHANGING TIMES

NEWS

Blair pledges age of achievement

Tony Blair offered Britain a five-year contract under which he would lead it into a new age of achievement and end "17 years of Tory hurt".

In an inspirational address to his party conference, Mr Blair urged the voters to "come home to Labour" and made ten vows for his first government. This was his covenant with the people: "Judge me upon it. The buck stops with me". Pages 1, 6, 7

Former Tory whip took lobbyist cash

A former Tory whip admitted that he had accepted money from Ian Greer, the political lobbyist, and had failed to disclose it in the Commons register of MPs' interests. Michael Brown, MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, told *The Times* he had accepted an introduction fee from Mr Greer for bringing his lobbying company new business. Page 1

The Soviet Bond

A spy code-named Bond was recruited by Russian intelligence to steal British secrets during the Second World War more than a decade before 007 was to turn the tables on the Soviets. Page 1

Cambridge fees

Cambridge may be forced to introduce tuition fees for students within five years, its new vice-chancellor said. Page 2

Booker favourites

The acclaimed writer Beryl Bainbridge faces stiff competition from the debut novelist Seamus Deane for the 1996 Booker Prize. Bainbridge has been shortlisted three times. Page 3

Teresa Gorman fined

Teresa Gorman and her husband were each fined £3,000 for changing their 16th-century farmhouse without listed building consent. The case ends a two-year wrangle between Thurrock Council and the MP for Billericay. Page 3

Maclean's downfall

The KGB message that eventually unmasked Donald Maclean as a Soviet spy was about a visit he made to New York to see his wife. Page 4

Golden office

A tiny top-floor office in north London, reached through a narrow doorway between two shops, is where one man earns £50 million a year. Page 5

Pot channel overcome by high tech

Cannabis Tel-a-vision (Ctv), an Amsterdam TV venture to promote the "positive side" of marijuana use, appears to have gone up in smoke. The channel was due to be beamed from Amsterdam to 37 countries. But just a few hours before the deadline for a pilot programme, the channel's staff abandoned the project, apparently too stoned to carry on. Page 9

Fertility safeguards

Tighter legal safeguards on fertility treatments are needed to prevent the creation of "exceptional" families, a leading British specialist said. Page 5

Inner city crisis

The head of one of Britain's most deprived schools told top independent schools that the state system was in "meltdown" in the inner cities. Page 8

Sellers letter for sale

The jealousy that racked the Peter Sellers was disclosed in a letter he wrote to Britt Ekland shortly after they married. It is part of a collection of Miss Ekland's property, which, it is estimated, could fetch £80,000 at auction. Page 8

Afghan showdown

The seemingly invincible Taliban army, now in control of three-quarters of Afghanistan, reached the mouth of the Panjshir Valley for a decisive battle with government forces. Page 9

Cuba challenge

The European Union raised the stakes in its dispute over America's anti-Cuban trade laws by deciding to challenge the action before the new World Trade Organisation. Page 10

Emergency summit

President Clinton launched an emergency White House summit to rescue the Middle East peace process. Page 11



Cardinal Cahal Daly, who was 79 yesterday, handing over as Primate of All Ireland to his successor, Dr Sean Brady. Page 4

HEATHROW

A planned £50 million fast rail link between the City and Heathrow Airport, backed by Richard Branson's Virgin Group, could be in operation by 1998 if the project gets the go ahead from BAA later this month. Page 25

Economy

The Chancellor received healthy news of British manufacturing industry with orders and output up sharply but price pressures remaining low. Page 25

British Gas

In the latest revelation of billings, a disgruntled customer was refunded £5,500 which had been wrongly withdrawn by direct debit. Page 25

Markets

The FT-SE 100 rose 38.5 to 3992.2. Sterling was unchanged at 87.0 after rising to DM2.3864 and steady at \$1.5640. Page 28

FOOTBALL

An Irish consortium has agreed terms with Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon owner, to buy the club and move it to Dublin. Legal documents could be drawn up within a week. Page 48

Rugby union

The future of the Anglo-Welsh tournament was thrown further into doubt when Neath withdrew from their game against Wasps at only 48 hours' notice. Page 48

Sailing

Three days into the BT Global Challenge race, a faulty rigging screw on the yacht could cause problems as the fleet heads towards Cape Finisterre. Page 46

Equestrianism

The rehabilitation of the Horse of the Year Show continues at Wembley Arena with a new image. Page 45

SILENT OPERA

Lindsay Kemp uses his unique mime talent to turn Büchner's story of *Woyzeck* into a bizarre chamber opera set in a circus sideshow. Page 32

Provocative opera

Richard Jones's *Die Walküre* is a triumph at Covent Garden with magnificent playing harnessed to controversial staging. Page 33

Stylised opera

Opera North's new production of Gluck's masterly *Iphigenia in Aulis* presents it unconventionally as an allegory on the National Lottery. Page 33

Burnt-out opera

With money apparently no object, Venice ponders the problem of how best to restore the shell of La Fenice opera house after the disastrous fire last January. Page 34

IN THE TIMES

FILMS

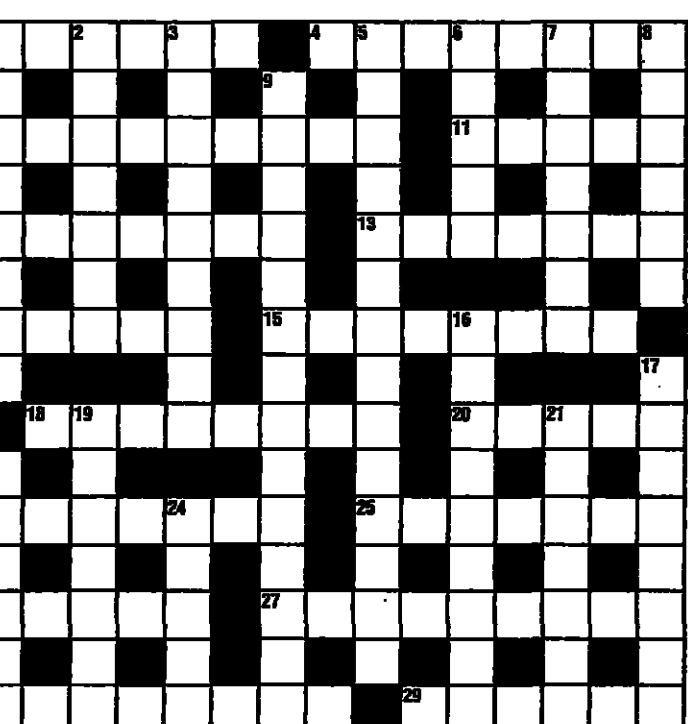
Geoff Brown sees Kate Winslet and Christopher Eccleston in *Jude*, the Thomas Hardy saga

BOOKS

Matthew Parris on new Labour, Roy Porter on Europe, Norman Lewis on badlands



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,288



ACROSS

- Clerk given directions about copy (6).
- Very bad time to dismiss conclusions expressed in precise terms (10).
- One who's perpetually nine? (9).
- Guide drug-dealer disposing of first of pot (5).
- Mundane one in athletic club lagging behind experts (7).
- What's turned up with boy reaching end of infancy? (7).
- Ancient writers found in dusty libraries (5).
- Abusive villain in cycle of operas (8).
- A lot of pain in face a bishop tries to control (8).
- Sound of horse that's close, coming round end of house (5).
- A small volume about central Serbia is bitter (7).
- Man had died in vehicle in Somerset town (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,287

BARSA GALLOWAY
LATHION
TIMESERVER SITE
KAOEIEH
READJUST KITTEN
FHEEN
RHEA EXECRATE
ASBGTET
CRITERIA JACK
MAMTO
COGNAC ELIGIBLE
NITEA TUNA
DICE AMABLING
CEATEC
TAPESTRY TURJEN

DOWN

- Encountered part of Bible that's rejected object of worship (5).
- Opposing poison shown by X (in action it varied) (9).
- Farmland setting for country dance by Irish composer (8).
- Old king accepting little change in island (6).
- Biscuit soft? One's hard on edge (8).
- Diana leaves Crookford, for example, in church office (7).
- Capital punishment has a point, in essence (9).
- Toy space vehicle disintegrated, losing height - real space vehicle can make it (6,8).
- What could promote obscure book? (5).
- Goddess among a number in ancient city (7).
- Churchman murdered? Queen's signature brought about end of revolt (6).
- It may be featured in local Net crime. I fancy (10,4).
- Gently treated nine during telly broadcast (9).
- Roman poet's supporting opening of treasure chests (8).
- Try to struggle with line, with no life in acting (7).
- Bookmaker's assistant whose work helps those who go to back (7).
- Exotic dancing pronounced worthless by church (6).
- Disney character, one born with fairy queen turning up (5).

Times Two Crossword page 48

TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	7-21
East of England	7-21
West of England	7-21
South of England	7-21
North of England	7-21
Scotland	7-21
Wales	7-21
Yorkshire	7-21
Derbyshire	7-21
Leicestershire	7-21
Nottinghamshire	7-21
Lincolnshire	7-21
Northamptonshire	7-21
Bedfordshire	7-21
Hertfordshire	7-21
Gloucestershire	7-21
Wiltshire	7-21
Devon	7-21
Cornwall	7-21
Shropshire	7-21
Staffordshire	7-21
Cheshire	7-21
Merseyside	7-21
Lancashire	7-21
West Yorkshire	7-21
North Yorkshire	7-21
South Yorkshire	7-21
East Yorkshire	7-21
North Lincolnshire	7-21
North East Lincolnshire	7-21
South Lincolnshire	7-21
East Lincolnshire	7-21
North Norfolk	7-21
South Norfolk	7-21
East Norfolk	7-21
West Norfolk	7-21
North Devon	7-21
South Devon	7-21
East Devon	7-21
West Devon	7-21
North Cornwall	7-21
South Cornwall	7-21
East Cornwall	7-21
West Cornwall	7-21

ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic forecasts, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Area	Forecast
London	7-21
East of London	7-21
West of London	7-21
South of London	7-21
North of London	7-21
Scotland	7-21
Wales	7-21
Yorkshire	7-21
Derbyshire	7-21
Leicestershire	7-21
Nottinghamshire	7-21
Lincolnshire	7-21
Northamptonshire	7-21
Bedfordshire	7-21
Hertfordshire	7-21
Gloucestershire	7-21
Wiltshire	7-21
Devon	7-21
Cornwall	7-21
Shropshire	7-21
Staffordshire	7-21
Cheshire	7-21
Merseyside	7-21
Lancashire	7-21
West Yorkshire	7-21
North Yorkshire	7-21
South Yorkshire	7-21
East Yorkshire	7-21
North Lincolnshire	7-21
North East Lincolnshire	7-21
South Lincolnshire	7-21
East Lincolnshire	7-21
North Norfolk	7-21
South Norfolk	7-21
East Norfolk	7-21
West Norfolk	7-21
North Devon	7-21
South Devon	7-21
East Devon	7-21
West Devon	7-21
North Cornwall	7-21
South Cornwall	7-21
East Cornwall	7-21
West Cornwall	7-21

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Location	Sun rise	Sun set	Moon rise	Moon set
London	7:03 am	9:36 pm	12:55 pm	10:02 pm
Edinburgh	6:45 pm to 7:05 am	8:45 pm to 7:15 pm	Edinburgh 6:45 pm to 7:15 am	Manchester 6:45 pm to 7:15 am
Perthshire	6:45 pm to 7:15 am	Perthshire 6:45 pm to 7:15 am	Perthshire 6:45 pm to 7:15 am	Perthshire 6:45 pm to 7:15 am

FLIGHT SAVERS

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AirUK

GENERAL

any cloud and patchy showers in southern England and Wales should readily clear, then all areas should have a bright day with sunny intervals. A few showers are possible near coasts, but these are expected to peter out in the afternoon. Later, cloud will thicken from the West, and rain is likely in Wales by midnight.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be bright with sunny periods. It will cloud over in Northern Ireland and western Scotland with rain there by evening. The rain will spread east and it will become windy in the west.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles: cloudy with patchy rain, clearing. Bright or sunny periods by day, perhaps isolated showers. Winds light, west or southwest. Mild. Max 18C (64F).

E England, W Midlands, SW

England, S Wales, NW England, Central N, NE England: misty start then bright. A few light showers in the morning. Cloudier later. Wind light, west or southwest, increasing in the evening. Mild. Max 17C (63F).

N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: bright start with cloud and rain spreading from the west. Winds light, northwest becoming southwest and freshening. Mild. Max 16C (61F).

Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: clear or sunny periods. Clouding over with rain by late afternoon. Winds light, west, later becoming strong, southerly. Mild. Max 16C (61F).

Outlook: overcast and wet.

ABROAD

Location	Forecast
Alexandria	22-28
Algiers	22-28
Amman	22-28
Antwerp	22-28
Athens	22-28
Bahia	22-28
Bangkok	22-28
Barcelona	22-28
Bombay	22-28
Buenos Aires	22-28
Calcutta	22-28
Cairo	22-28
Cardiff	22-28
Chennai	22-28
Cebu	22-28
Dhaka	22-28
Dublin	22-28
Edinburgh	22-28
Hong Kong	22-28
London	22-28
Los Angeles	22-28
Madrid	22-28
Manila	22-28
Mexico City	22-28
Mumbai	22-28
Nairobi	22-28
Paris	22-28
Perth	22-28
Rangoon	22-28
Rio de Janeiro	22-28
Singapore	22-28
Sydney	22-28
Taipei	22-28
Tokyo	22-28
Toronto	22-28
Ulaanbaatar	22-28
Washington	22-28
Wellington	22-28
Yokohama	22-28

TOMORROW

How to behave in a boom: The best advice for buyers and sellers in the housing market. Page 35

THE PAPERS

Never in 17 bitter years of opposition has the Labour Party been so self-confident. But it is the voters and not the delegates who have the final say and Labour is still a long way from having gathered in its electoral flock. It is still possible that the Conservatives return to form and that Labour has peaked too early. - *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

SIMON JENKINS

A thousand days, a heritage of hope, a decent society, a government of the millennium: Tony Blair's speech was a carnival of clichés. But he decked them in finery and they stole the show. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

If Labour wins the next election, then yesterday's speech - with its much repeated slogan the "age of achievement" - will be seen as symbolically important as Harold Wilson's "white heat of technology" speech of 1963 in setting both the political tone and the goals for a Labour Government. Page 6

SIMON BARNES

Saturday was, for Frankie Dettori, rather more than a good day at the office. Dettori did not merely win seven races out of seven: he reached the peak of sporting ability and maintained his balance for a long and giddy afternoon. Page 46

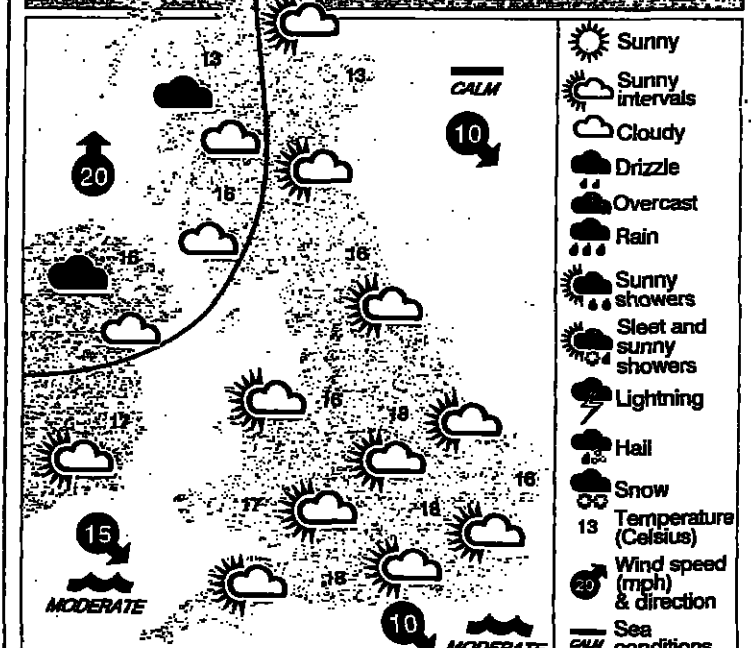
MAX MANUS

Max Manus, Norwegian resistance fighter; Professor John Corner, botanist; Pavel Sudoplatov, Soviet spy master. Page 19

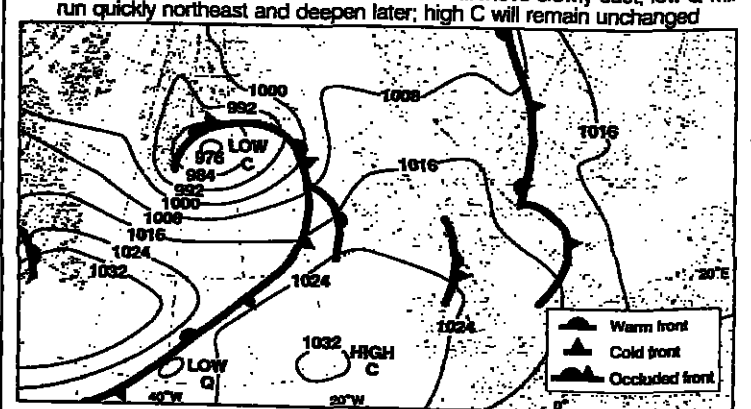
CASTLE'S CALL

Castle's call for pensions rethink: monetary union; Oswald Mosley: prison sentences and rising crime; Romanian royals. Page 17

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 1996



Changes to the chart below from noon: low C will move slowly east; low Q will run quickly northeast and deepen later; high C will remain unchanged



HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4:43	7:1	4:59	7:0
Abbeville	4:14	4:1	4:37	3:9
Amman	10:07	12:3	10:24	11:8
Belfast	2:14	3:5	2:28	3:4
Cardiff	10:04	11:2	10:28	10:7
Doverport	8:28	8:2	8:50	4:9
Dover	1:57	6:5	2:18	6:4
Dunfermline	2:25	3:9	2:54	3:8
Dublin (N Wall)	8:24	8:4	8:41	8:7
Edinburgh	3:28	3:6	3:42	4:5
Glasgow	2:38	3:9	2:52	3:9
Hull (Albert D)	8:17	7:4	8:30	6:3
London	8:01	8:7	8:22	8:3
King's Lynn	8:20	8:3	8:41	8:0
Wilton-on-Naze	2:38	4:1	2:53	4:1

Copyright reserved. All times GMT. Heights in metres

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Howe, East Sussex, Torquay and Southampton, 18C (64F); lowest day temp: Lough, Shetland, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Southend, Essex, 0.8in; highest sunshine: 10h 10min, Lough, Shetland

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Total number of lives saved so far this year: 671
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 3,243
Cost to RNLI per day: £173,000
Cost to taxpayer: £0
To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210

Lifeboats

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Reg. Charity No. 209601

Investors asked to qualify for Olympic place

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE, IN SYDNEY

SPORTS enthusiasts were offered the ultimate in shareholder perks yesterday as Stadium Australia, the consortium building the main stadium for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, unveiled a \$365 million (£185 million) public share offer that comes complete with a guaranteed seat in the stadium for every Olympic event.

In return for an investment of \$10,000 each, some 34,400 investors will receive an entitlement to 1,000 shares in Stadium Australia Management, to be listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in December, and a seat at all Olympic events held in the stadium, expected to include the opening and closing ceremonies and all track and field events, at no extra cost.

The Stadium Australia consortium, which includes Multiplex, the Australian construction group, and Obayashi, the Japanese contractor,

said that the \$365 million that it hopes to raise through the offer will cover more than half the \$615 million cost of building the stadium. Peter Ritchie, chairman, said: "This unique offer to the public presents a mix of extensive lifestyle benefits as well as an equity investment in the business of this landmark asset. This stadium will attract world attention during the 2000 Olympics."

The investment package also entitles an investor to stadium club membership for more than 30 years from 1999, entry to most sporting events staged after the Olympics at no extra cost and access to an exclusive members' lounge and dining area. A further 600 packages being offered at \$534,000 apiece entitle investors to 2,000 shares and two seats for every Olympics event.

Mr Ritchie says that Stadium Australia has already received expressions of interest from more than 20,000 potential investors for the

packages, which go on sale next week. Individual investors will be allowed to buy up to six investment packages each — the packages also carry the ability to arrange up to six seats next to each other.

Construction of the stadium, seven miles from the centre of Sydney, began last month and is expected to be completed in March 1999.

Supreme unlucky, page 10
Pennington, page 72

Supreme unlucky, page 10
Pennington, page 72

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BT wins Lloyds TSB £147m data contract

LLOYDS TSB yesterday awarded a £147 million contract to British Telecom to connect 1,700 Lloyds offices, branches and cash-dispensers with a new high-speed data network. The bank's new network will allow Lloyds sites to communicate with each other as well as with the central computers. The old network, installed 10 years ago, was inflexible and did not allow services such as electronic mail.

BT, to be paid over the contract's eight-year life, will develop and maintain the network, including laying cables that have seven times the capacity of the existing ones. BT beat competition from IBM, Mercury Communications and Racal for the contract. It has targeted the financial services industry as one of its prime growth areas.

Lambert in the black

LAMBERT SMITH HAMPTON, the commercial property consultancy, made a pre-tax profit of £205,000 in the six months to July 31, after the reverse takeover by Herring Baker Harris. The two companies joined forces in April. Lambert Smith had incurred a £915,000 loss when trading alone in the comparable period. The group gave warning that second-half margins would continue to suffer from overcapacity and competition in its sector. Earnings were 1.5p per share (53.3p loss, Lambert). Again, there is no dividend.

European Leisure offer

EUROPEAN LEISURE announced an £11.4 million rights issue and capital restructuring yesterday as it completes a financial turnaround. It said the rights-issue proceeds would be used to fund an expansion programme. Two new shares are offered for every three held at 145p. European will convert its banking syndicate's 13.3 million preference shares, placing 12 million with institutional investors at 145p a share. The £20.3 million placing will cut the banks' interest from 67 to 11 per cent. The shares closed 4p up at 169p.

Ash & Lacy lifts profit

ASH & LACY, the metal-processing and engineering group, said yesterday it had avoided a direct hit from copper-price fluctuations in the six months to June 30 and returned a pre-tax profit of £3.2 million (£2.0 million) for the period. The company said it offset the fluctuations by stepping up its reinforcement services. Extra productivity from its new plant in Walsall helped sales more than double to £74 million. After an increased dividend of 2.7p (2.6p) per share, earnings rose to 8.89p per share (7.84p), payable November 15.

Clay group slides

WATTS, BLAKE, AND BEARNE, the clay producer, has reported moderate interim losses in a difficult market. In the six months to June 30, pre-tax profits dipped from £6.1 million to £5.5 million and half-year sales fell marginally, to £53.3 million from £53.6 million. Earnings per share of 15.7p represent a 2p decline on last year's figure, while the interim dividend stays at 4.4p. The company, whose results since July have seen a continuation of the first half trend, says management cost controls are starting to pay off.

QS losses prevent payout

QS HOLDINGS, the discount fashion retailer, will not pay an interim dividend after reporting a pre-tax half-time loss of £1.5 million — double the £743,000 lost in the same period last year. In spite of a 6.8 per cent increase in turnover to £25.9 million in the six months to July 27, a difficult trading environment squeezed profit margins. However, with new appointments to the management team, the company expects an improved result for the full year. The company unveiled an annual loss of £702,000 last year.

Northchart buys MCH

NORTHCHART INVESTMENTS, a Zimbabwe-registered portfolio investment company formerly controlled by Lonrho, is buying the supermarket, hotel and retail interests of MCH, one of Zimbabwe's leading private companies. The 318-room Meikles Hotel, a well known Harare business venue, is among the assets. Northchart is to change its name to Meikles Africa, a new company to be capitalised at about \$250 million and seek \$75 million through a placing of new shares with international investors led by ING Barings.

US plan for Hat Pin

HAT PIN, the AIM-listed recruitment company, plans to expand into New York, to become the first agency there dealing in all areas of advertising. Yesterday it announced taxable profits of £216,000 (£203,000) for the half-year to June 30. Overseas clients, currently serviced from London, contributed £287,000 of its £1.06 million (£761,000) sales in the half-year. Earnings were 4.59p per share (4.23p). The company, whose shares floated at 68p in July, will make an interim payout of 1p per share, due December 3.

Clarke tells IMF he can sustain recovery

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SWEEPING Conservative economic reforms have allowed the current upswing to break the mould of previous recoveries. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, told the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund yesterday.

Mr Clarke noted that it was almost 20 years to the day since Denis Healey, as Labour Chancellor, turned back on his way to an IMF annual meeting to tackle Britain's economic crisis. "This ironic anniversary is the best evidence of the scale of the reform of the British economy over the last two decades," he said.

The Chancellor reminded his audience that Mr Healey had been forced to go to the IMF for a massive loan, and repeated that his own overrid-

ing aim in the Budget next month will be to get government borrowing down to a sustainable level and to keep Britain on course for a balanced budget. "That is the background against which I shall then judge whether or not the Government can make progress in its tax-cutting agenda. The British Government believes in tax cuts but only when we can afford them, and only when they make good economic sense."

Mr Clarke said that he believed that he could go on delivering above-trend growth for several years without inflation re-emerging, courtesy of the Conservative programme of privatisation, deregulation and labour market reform.

"With continued good economic management, this recovery could be the healthiest, the strongest and the longest ever enjoyed by the people of the United Kingdom," he said.

The Chancellor pointed out that in the 1970s economic recovery, it took more than two years for unemployment to begin to fall, and five and a half years in the recovery from the early 1980s recession. But it took only one year of recovery this time around for unemployment to start falling.

He also noted that in the 1970s recovery, earnings growth never fell below 10 per cent and never below 7.5 per cent in the 1980s. After five years of recovery this time, earnings growth is running at half of 7.5 per cent, and "so far has showed no signs of accelerating".

Whereas in the 1980s, the British economy met reviving demand by sucking in imports, eventually leading to a yawning gap in the current account, this time exports had grown faster than imports and the current account is broadly in balance, Mr Clarke said. He noted that the latest quarter had seen the best current account performance for nine years.

The Chancellor reminded his audience of the positive judgment in the summer of an IMF mission to London, which had concluded that structural reforms had "contributed greatly to economic performance", and offered "a genuine prospect of improvement in the UK's growth performance over the longer term".

Purchase by Visual Action

By ERIC REGULY

VISUAL Action Holdings, the audio-visual and film-equipment hire group, agreed yesterday to make its fourth acquisition since its flotation in March and said more purchases are planned.

Visual Action acquired S&S Holdings of Chicago, which hires audio-visual equipment for presentations, product launches, promotions and concerts, in exchange for \$13.3 million in new Visual Action shares. In its last financial year, S&S had pre-tax profits of \$2.2 million on turnover of \$23.3 million.

The purchase raises Visual Action's share of the US market for audio-visual and film-equipment hire to about 10 per cent. Bob Ellis, chief executive, said: "We would like to have 20 to 25 per cent of that market."

The company is emphasising international expansion because it is already the leader in the British market. The shares, issued at 185p, rose 5p to 225½p.



On song: Richard Holland, chief executive, reported a 21 per cent rise in half-year profits

BP joins in £230m project to redevelop Port Talbot

By IOLEA SMITH

BP CHEMICALS, the Welsh Development Agency and Neath Port Talbot County Council joined forces yesterday to launch a £230 million redevelopment of Port Talbot. The programme should create 3,000 new jobs over ten years.

Much of the investment will be spent on establishing Wales's first Energy Park alongside BP's premises. This park, which should create 2,800 jobs, will be marketed as an inward investment location for environmentally friendly businesses. Companies choosing to lo-

cate on the Park will be able to receive cheap electricity generated on the site by BP. And already, according to David Rowe-Beddoe, the WDA chairman, six companies have voiced an interest in moving on to the site.

Work on developing the Park's first 100 acres will begin next spring, and will encompass landscaping and environmental improvements as well as the construction of low density buildings. According to Gareth James, BP's works general manager at Port Talbot, "the Energy Park

will offer inward investors the opportunity to develop new industries in a quality environment".

The second phase, expected to begin in 1998, will encompass redevelopment land around Port Talbot's Brunel Dock. This part of the project involves a partnership between the WDA and Associated British Ports. In addition to creating new jobs, the plan also focuses on regenerating the town centre, building a £39 million new road and investing £3 million to improve the town's sea defences.

New head of programmes for BSkyB

ELISABETH MURDOCH, daughter of Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, was given overall responsibility yesterday for programming at BSkyB in addition to her role as general manager of broadcasting. She will report directly to Sam Chisholm, chief executive of the satellite broadcaster, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times. In programming, Ms Murdoch will be working with James Baker, who joined BSkyB from Nickelodeon International, the cable and satellite service, where he was responsible for creating Nickelodeon channels overseas.

Fyffes sheds banana share

FYFFES, the European fresh fruit group, has sold its half share in Banana Trading Corporation — which owns a Guatemalan banana farming business — to Dole Food Company for £17 million. The bananas had been grown, unprofitably, for the American market. Fyffes has also entered a new long-term shipping agreement with Dole over Latin American shipments.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.08	1.92
Austria Sch	17.76	16.20
Belgium F	32.04	47.74
Canada \$	2.241	2.081
Cyprus Cyp	0.788	0.708
Denmark Kr	9.72	8.82
Finland Mk	7.71	7.08
France Fr	6.47	7.82
Germany Dm	2.54	2.33
Greece Dr	382	367
Hong Kong \$	12.76	11.76
India Ru	116	96
Ireland P	1.03	0.95
Israel Sh	5.40	4.76
Italy Lit	2485	2240
Japan Yen	167.50	171.30
Malta	0.61	0.55
Netherlands Gld	2.33	2.39
New Zealand \$	2.39	2.17
Norway Kr	10.71	9.91
Portugal Esc	263.50	238.00
Spain P	7.70	6.80
Spain Pta	207.00	194.00
Sweden Kr	11.01	10.21
Switzerland Fr	2.03	1.91
Turkey Lira	143250	137250
USA \$	1.885	1.835

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

OR

FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

Charity Commission Notice: 250094

The Trustees of Miller Bell Fund (Charities: Royal Hospital, Southwick, London) have given notice that they have agreed a transfer of the property of the charity to the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 25th October 1996 at 12.00 noon. The property of the charity is the Royal Hospital, Southwick, London. The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The charity's registered office is at the Royal Hospital, Southwick, London. The charity's principal objects are to provide and maintain a hospital for the benefit of the community. The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The charity's registered office is at the Royal Hospital, Southwick, London. The charity's principal objects are to provide and maintain a hospital for the benefit of the community.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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Charity Commission Notice: 250099

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□ House of Fraser seeks to fashion a recovery □ Heathrow link no flight of fancy □ Sydney's private sector stadium plan

Put to the carrier bag test

IT IS a familiar process, a stately parade of ritual steps by which a business comes off the ropes and rehabilitates itself in the eyes of the City. Take one severely blotted copybook. Add a new management parachuted in from outside, lots of red ink and wiledowns and much talk of refocusing. Wait for a while, and then see if it works. If not, start again from afresh.

The process is well under way at House of Fraser. John Coleman arrived from Texas Home-care — where he should have learnt a fair bit about the less successful end of the retail trade — in April, along with a coterie of like-minded colleagues and much talk about proven experience, skills and flair. Various HoF executives headed off in the opposite direction. The City braced itself for the inevitable red ink. But there were those who wondered if the whole concept of House of Fraser was not flawed from the start, to the extent that no amount of conceptual tinkering would put it right.

They are still wondering. While some department stores have been unexpected beneficiaries of the retail boom, the successes among them have done so by concentrating on the fashion end, selling a narrow, exclusive range. No one makes money on the high street competing with out-of-town retailers for

lines such as furniture and electrical goods any more. House of Fraser has always had too many old, tired shops, too widely spread around the country. Mr Coleman and his team say they aspire to attract new breeds of customer, such as well-off career women with well-developed fashion tastes. Well, aspire away. At the moment the shops are crowded with too wide a range of bog-standard clothing.

This is the carrier bag test, possibly the most difficult to face any retailer. Will the shopper happy to walk down the street clutching a Harvey Nichols bag be prepared to be seen dead with one from House of Fraser? Possibly, eventually — Tesco managed it in food retailing, after all. But it takes time.

This is just what the group lacks. The closure of five to ten stores will put pressure on head office costs just to maintain margins, at a time when spending is needed on the sort of stock-taking systems standard at other retailers but whose existence seems to have escaped the previous management's attention. Meanwhile House of Fraser has

lost out on the retail boom and risks being caught in any post-election downturn. It has missed the party but faces the hangover.

Tony Shire, at Barclays de Zoete Wedel, is shooting for £16.5 million in profits this year even before writedowns, down from earlier estimates of £25 million pre-tax. The shares, which were floated at 180p in April 1994, are now worth 158p.

Some sort of rights issue may eventually be needed to fund the necessary investment. Even thereafter, it may be a long time before House of Fraser carrier bags are *de rigueur* for the truly fashionable shopper.

Going west with Branson

RICHARD Branson makes an unlikely hero in the City. His relations with the Square Mile ended in tears when he took Virgin off the stock market, and he is known as one of the toughest in the business when it comes to driving down fees. But the man with the beard and the funny jumpers will be the toast of



the pinstripes if his plans for a fast link from Moorgate to Heathrow come to fruition. Which City executive, stuck in a cab on the Chiswick flyover or in a tunnel on the Piccadilly line, has not cursed the lack of a decent, reliable link to the airport? This is not to suggest that City folk should be immune from the daily trials that affect the rest of us — even if Mr Branson himself uses a motorbike taxi when he needs to catch a plane in a hurry. But the alternative, the long slog out to the bleak wasteland that is the City's own airport, has never really taken off, so to speak.

The Branson plan still has many hurdles to cross, not least the Government's deep suspicion

that it will scupper its own plans for the Thameslink 2000 project announced earlier this year. But it is not clear how much the Government can do if the private sector willpower is there. BAA and Railtrack are privatised bodies and the first stage of the scheme, at least, would need no parliamentary approval. Having privatised the railways, ministers cannot be too indignant if entrepreneurs spot opportunities to make money from them, particularly if no public subsidy is involved. There is a clear market for the service, even if the impact on the Heathrow Express is not easy to predict.

The real loser would be the City airport, sold to Irish entrepreneur Dermot Desmond a year ago by John Mowlem, its builder, for a bargain basement price that might one day not look like such a bargain. There could also be some slackening of the flight to Canary Wharf.

Forget the City for a moment. With the M4 into London under intolerable pressure and Crossrail temporarily shelved, there is a strong transport case to be answered. If privatisation is to

mean genuine private sector railways as opposed to the mere franchising of British Rail, this scheme should go ahead.

Winners and losers in the Olympics

BILLY PAYNE, the American who took the 1996 Olympic Games to Atlanta, now owes his bank \$500,000 and is still trying to work out whether the games made a profit or a loss. Atlanta's chaotic effort will now go down in history as the games that failed to win the traditional "best games ever" seal of approval from the International Olympic Committee.

The IOC also let it be known that it wanted future Olympics to be backed by a government or a state rather than by free enterprise. Tell that to the Australians. The consortium building the main athletics stadium for the Sydney 2000 Olympics is offering £185 million in shares that offer a guaranteed seat in the stadium for every Olympic event, a sort of Down Under version of Wimbledon debentures. The Atlanta stadium is already being converted into

a standard American sports ground, but the 34,000 eventual holders of the Sydney shares will get more than 30 years of membership of the stadium club and entry to most events staged long after the games are over.

To find a real Olympic winner, however, one needs to go back to Peter Ueberroth, organiser of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. He toured the world giving lectures, was honoured with Time magazine's Man of the Year award and enjoyed the ultimate American accolade. He became baseball commissioner.

City lights

ANDREW Thomas's appointment as chairman of Linsight Group, the home improvement company, shows just how powerful the City mafia has become. Manchester City, that is, Mr Thomas's day job is chairman of Greenalls, the pub company with 17 per cent of Man City.

Stephen Boler, who has a 13 per cent stake in the club, started Linsight 14 years ago. He is selling the majority of his stake in Linsight when it floats, to concentrate on his game park in the Kalahari Desert. He should leave the company around £85 million richer. A shame that the success of Man City's boardroom inhabitants has utterly failed to rub off on its players.

Limelight founder's 50% stake valued at £85m

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

STEPHEN BOLER, the founder of Limelight, which specialises in fitted home improvement products, will see his 50 per cent stake in the company valued at about £85 million when the company comes to the market next month.

Mr Boler, who started the company 14 years ago, is expected to sell the majority of his stake so that he can concentrate on his other business ventures, which include a recently opened 60,000-hectare game park on the edge of the Kalahari desert and the Mere golf and country club. Mr Boler also owns a 13 per cent stake in Manchester City Football Club.

The other main investors, including Schroder Venture

Advisers which owns 21 and ADT which holds 16 per cent, are also expected to reduce their stakes after the float, which is likely to value the company at about £170 million. The company said yesterday it had no plans to raise any money from the flotation. Limelight owns about 555 showrooms across the UK, although it is concentrated in the South of the country. Its main brands include Molen Kitchens and Kitchens Direct, Sharp Bedrooms, Dolphin Bathrooms and Portland Conservatories and Windows.

Stephen Cotter, chief executive, said the company was aiming to take advantage of the fragmented £5 billion home improvement market. It wants to add about 200 more outlets in retail parks and high

streets across the country. The company would also consider making further acquisitions, although Mr Cotter said the main thrust of its strategy would be to continue building the company's existing brands.

Last year, the company made an operating profit of £13.5 million on a turnover of £134 million.

The company also appointed Andrew Thomas, executive chairman of Greenalls, as non-executive chairman after the resignation of Mr Boler from the post of chairman. Mr Boler will continue as a non-executive director.

The prospectus will be published this month and dealings are expected to commence in mid-November. The float will be sponsored by NM

Rothschild & Sons, with Cazenove & Co acting as brokers.

The company has grown substantially in the past few years, tripling the number of outlets since 1993. Limelight has also won a number of concessions at leading DIY chains, such as Homebase and Laura Ashley. The company is able to offer a complete service from manufacture to installation.

Mr Cotter said that the company had been enjoying the benefits of the recent upturn in the consumer market, with all its main businesses showing an improvement. But he added that the kitchens business had grown fastest as the kitchen is typically the first area that consumers look to improve.

Rothschild corporate initiative

BY GEORGE SIVELL

BARON David de Rothschild is to chair a committee being set up within NM Rothschild, the London merchant bank, to coordinate corporate finance business around the world in an effort to compete effectively with Swiss, German and American rivals.

The move follows top-level departures from the corporate finance department of NM Rothschild. The move is seen in the City as reinforcing Baron de Rothschild's chances of succeeding Sir Evelyn Roth as chairman.

The deputy head of the committee will be Russell Edey, head of corporate finance in London. Tony Ali and Keith Palmer will become joint chief executives.

Imperial receives warm welcome from market

BY FRASER NELSON



Lord Hanson: first demerger

IMPERIAL TOBACCO, the demerged tobacco arm of the Hanson conglomerate, was given a warm welcome to the market as its shares fetched a strong premium which beat City forecasts and valued Britain's second-largest cigarette producer at £2.25 billion.

Imperial's shares, placed at 375p, opened yesterday at 390p, which added an instant £86 million to its market value. After touching 395p, they closed at 393½p.

The jump in price disproved speculation that Imperial's market debut would be overshadowed by Labour's announcement that it intends to outlaw tobacco advertising if it wins the next general election, and the news from UK lawyers that they will file class action against tobacco companies on a "no win, no fee" basis. Until that announce-

ment there had been takeover speculation. The strength of Imperial's shares also fuelled a recovery in the shares of its rival, BAT Industries, which stirred from their near-low of 425½p to close at 431½p.

Imperial is the first of Lord Hanson's "grandchildren" to leave the corporate family. Its demerger has cost less than £10 million in annual overheads, requiring little more than a separate treasury, and a mechanism to serve its shareholders. While it was a part of Hanson, Imperial handled its own affairs, including taxation.

In 1995, Imperial's turnover was £3.57 billion, from which £2.82 billion was paid as duty. After costs of £399 million it made a profit of £348 million before tax, 6 per cent more than last year.

Hanson has devolved £1.1 billion of debt to Imperial, leaving its former subsidiary with net liabilities of £1 billion on its balance sheet. Millennium Chemicals, the titanium dioxide maker, is the next Hanson subsidiary to be spun off. The company's shares started trading on the New York Stock Exchange this morning.

Rank plays Trump card for growth

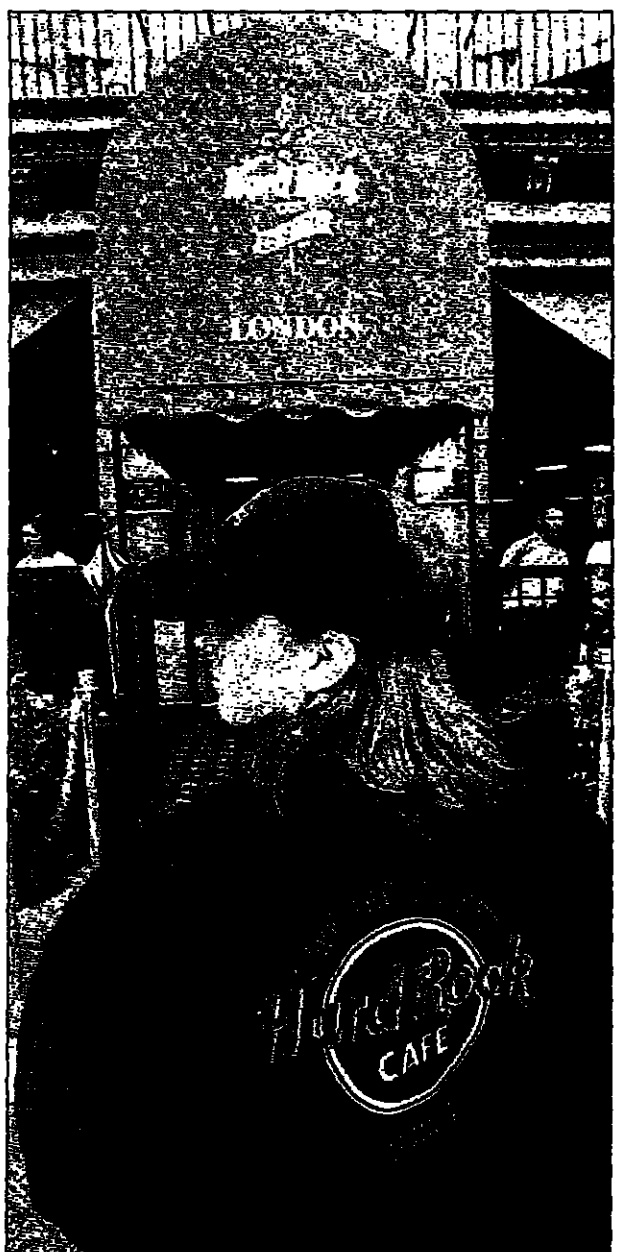
FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

RANK, the restaurants and leisure group, is in talks with Donald Trump, the flamboyant American property developer, to give a Hard Rock Café theme to the Trump Castle casino in Atlantic City. The talks appear to be part of a programme by Rank — now the sole owner of the hugely successful Hard Rock Café restaurants — to expand the 58-branch chain aggressively. The move would also help Rank to compete with the fast-growing Planet Hollywood restaurants, which have a foothold in several casinos.

Mr Trump is looking for ways to boost the popularity of his Atlantic City casinos to fight competition from Las Vegas. He is already familiar with the Hard Rock — one is opening in his Taj Mahal casino in November.

Giving the gaudy Trump Castle a new theme has become a top priority for Mr Trump since the restructuring of his hotel and casino group last week. "We are in discussion with a number of companies including Rank," said Eileen Manahan, a Trump spokeswoman.

Although Rank refused to say whether it was talking to Trump, some observers believe the company may be considering buying half of the Trump Castle casino for about \$350 million.



Rank is preparing to expand the Hard Rock Café chain

Rescue cash dents Lloyd Thompson

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Lloyd's of London rescue, plus other one-off expenses, have caused a £15 million drop in pre-tax profits of Lloyd Thompson, the international insurance broker.

Full-year profits fell to £5.3 million after Ken Carter, chief executive, decided to pay the company's £4 million contribution towards the rescue plan in total this year, rather than over five years.

Even after other exceptional charges, including a £4.6 million litigation settlement and provision of £7.6 million for costs of a surplus office block in the City, Lloyd Thompson has £45 million of spare cash. In spite of the profit fall, the City liked the results, and the shares rose 12½p, to 182p.

Mr Carter said he would consider an acquisition that "made sense", but said the insurance market was likely to deteriorate in the next year. "Too many people are chasing a finite amount of insurance business," he said. "Rates have been cut by 20 per cent across the board."

Other brokers have different views of industry prospects. Willis Corroon says it sees no shareholder value in takeovers at present, and Sedgwick feels there is too little business for the current number of players.

A 7p final dividend is proposed, to make 11p, up 2p. Fully diluted earnings before exceptional items rose 3 per cent, to 16.8p a share.

Two jailed over deposits fraud

BY ROBERT MILLER

SWIFT action by the Bank of England's enforcement team led to the conviction yesterday of three men on charges of inducing the public to hand over nearly £40,000 in deposits and using forged documents.

The successful prosecution of the three is part of the Bank's campaign to warn people of the dangers of parting with their money to unauthorised firms and dealers. Peter Lennon, 54, from Bournemouth, and Roger Charlesworth, 50, from Southampton were sentenced to 21 months and 18 months in prison respectively, after pleading guilty to various charges under

the Banking Act relating to unauthorised deposit-taking and other offences under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act. A third man, Paul Hyans, 33, also from Southampton, was sentenced to 200 hours' community service.

Passing sentence on the three men at the Inner London Crown Court, Judge Quentin Campbell said: "This was a tragedy in the making for potential investors from which the public needs to be protected."

At the time of the offences, Charlesworth and Hyans were directors of a company called Homesafe (Insurance Consultants), which also traded as Charlesworth Hyans Associates. Lennon

joined the firms to advise on marketing the financial services side of the business.

The three men became involved in a proposed property deal in Florida but having failed to raise the money through conventional means they attempted to pull in the funding through newspaper advertisements. They advertised a special Heritage Bond offering guaranteed returns. More than 300 people made inquiries and six deposits totalling £39,000 were handed over.

The Bank of England, however, received a tip-off and raided the offices within days of the advertisement. As a result of the prompt action the deposits were recovered and eventually returned.

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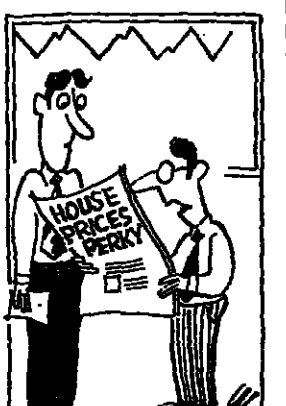
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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Gas customer sees red

RORY POWE, head of European equities at Invesco, who stepped into Peter Young's dirty shoes as European Fund Manager of the Year, is furious with British Gas (who isn't?). When Powe recently moved into a socking great house in Bishop's Cleeve, he complained to British Gas because he hadn't been sent a bill. Eventually, a bill arrived, but it was peanuts, says Powe, who was then sent a red reminder.

Time for Powe's papa to intervene, who advised him to check his meter. All in all, Powe tells me that he had guzzled around three times the amount of gas estimated, which is worrying news for British Gas. Oh, and his father is Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council.



"Except House of Fraser"

Plotting banker

NEXT stop Hollywood for John McLaren, an investment banker and director at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, who has sold the film rights to his first novel for a sum just short of seven figures. Mike Nichols, director of *The Graduate*, *Postcards From the Edge*, and most recently *Primary Colors*, is the man to turn McLaren's silicon valley thriller into a cinematic masterpiece. *Press Send*, which will be published by Simon & Schuster next May, tells the story of disaffection in the corporate world. Where in the City can the non-executive director at Macallan Glenlivet and Groupe Cier Gerard have picked up material for his plot?

Trust worthies

BATTLING it out on the letters page of a weekly trade magazine are Philip Warland, of Antif, and Ernest Fenton, of AITC. In the wake of the Morgan Grenfell affair, the combative Warland and dour Scot are fighting for the affections of the private investor. Fenton threw the first punch on behalf of investment trusts when he pointed out the difference in their structure from unit trusts. In Warland's witty response, he wrote: "I would have thought Ernest had enough problems without spending his time displaying his ignorance of unit trusts." Fenton, writing in today's edition of *Money Marketing*, hits back: "I've no doubt got it all wrong - again - and look forward to Philip putting me right when he next buys me a drink." Touché.

No small beer

AT LAST some good news for Flemings. After Jardine Fleming was fined a hefty £700,000 for a series of City rule breaches in August and having paid out £12 million in compensation as a result, the blue-blooded private merchant bank needed something to sing about. Now the bank's South African arm, headed by Adam Fleming, has become the sole book-runner to raise \$300 million for South African Breweries, the world's fifth largest, which yesterday bought a 52 per cent stake in Poland's Tychy Brewery, which produces more beer than Carlsberg and Foster's.

MORAG PRESTON

The tables are about to be turned on utility watchdogs

Christine Buckley
on the twin
investigations that
could herald end
of the regulators

British Gas is back in the news with its service and billing problems at the first hint of cold weather. Its regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, will no doubt be studying its current performance. But before long it will be her turn in the spotlight.

The performance of the utility regulators will be under scrutiny when MPs return to parliament later this month. First, the Trade and Industry Select Committee will put the energy regulators through their paces. Soon afterwards, the Public Accounts Committee will haul Ms Spottiswoode (gas), Stephen Littlechild (electricity), Ian Byatt (water) and Don Cruickshank (telecoms) to the House of Commons to answer questions.

The two studies - prompted by a report by the National Audit Office that questioning key aspects of the regulators' operations - will be the biggest public investigations of the activities of four individuals who between them control the price of electricity, gas, water and telephone calls to domestic consumers and to industry.

The parliamentary investigations into their methods and performance arrive as a potential Labour government drafts its regulation agenda. A shake-up of regulation must be a priority for Labour - the utilities are a fertile ground from which to tap disaffected Tory supporters. The utilities are high on the public's hate list after a series of controversies over executive salaries, bumper payouts for shareholders and complaints about service.

Labour is believed to favour a merging of the regulators' offices, certainly those for electricity and gas. It may also seek their replacement with a more visibly accountable commission. The idea of a super energy regulator, embracing gas and electricity, will figure largely on the agenda of the Trade and Industry Select Committee.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is expected to call later this year for the regulators to be held accountable to a panel of business people and consumer groups. The move towards more panel-based operation and adjudication of regulation is gaining a great deal of currency. It would not only end the cult of the personality and idiosyncratic regulation, it would also help to mitigate the persistent showdowns between regulators and companies.

Much of the future role of the offices, and the individuals, hangs on their performance before their parliamentary interrogators this autumn and winter. But how will the interrogators judge the band of academics and economists who have found themselves thrust into the public eye?

Professor Littlechild, engineer of the British Telecom privatisation and inventor of the RPI-X formula for price control, has had a mixed record. Famous for reopening a price review that wiped £3.5 billion from electricity



Don Cruickshank has been the most successful of the utility regulators



Spottiswoode: high public profile



Littlechild: complex industry



Byatt: image has been dented

share prices because he had been too easy on the companies first time, he also has the most difficult job of all the regulators. The electricity industry is the most complex utility in terms of numbers of companies, competing interests and technicalities of supply and trading.

His approach has been that of an economist, his discipline. And while few would doubt his intellectual prowess, his commercial nous has been questionable. The reopening of the distribution price review last year may have been an attempt to grasp the nettle after having previously sanctioned far too lenient pricing criteria.

However, its handling was generally deemed a disaster. Power shares slumped on the news of the new review, which was made just days after the Government sold the second tranche of shares in National Power and PowerGen.

When the fresh review was about to be published details leaked into the market, which breathed a huge sigh of relief, and shares climbed again as it became clear it would not too heavily dent the profits of electricity companies. Lastly, though, Professor Littlechild has demonstrated a far more streetwise aspect, arming himself with business advisers to assist his

pricing review of the National Grid, and then indulging in a spot of 'fat-cat' bashing when he announced it.

But while Professor Littlechild may have resurrected his reputation, a pitfall looms large. Fears are growing that competition will not be delivered by the April 1998 deadline, or that it will be plunged into chaos.

Clare Spottiswoode has the highest public profile of the regulators, appearing both personable and purposeful. In her short time at Ofgas she has exuded an air of getting on with things. Her task has been aided by the public loathing of British Gas.

Ms Spottiswoode has been virtually cheered by an admiring public for anything that whips British Gas into shape - until recently. The confrontation over pricing proposals for Transco, British Gas's pipelines division, has not been good for Ms Spottiswoode. She was forced to mount a substantial climbdown from her toughest proposals after a huge outcry from the company, private shareholders, union leaders and heavyweight financial institutions.

But Ms Spottiswoode has led the race to bring in competition, with 500,000 households in the South West able to shop around for their gas, gaining bill discounts of around 20 per cent. That number will grow to two million early next year.

Ian Byatt has attracted a substantial amount of respect. Modest in manner and not prone to gaffes, he has appeared the most sage-like. But he was judged primarily by his industry, and his record is not impressive. Water charges have increased and, while investment requirements are weighty for water treatment and supply, customers have seen few visible signs of improvement.

Water may be much cleaner because of European directives, but supply has rarely had a worse image.

It is difficult to preside over a company such as Yorkshire Water and its catalogue of service problems last year and escape unscathed. The fine levied by Ofwat only mitigated slightly what was widely seen as the pure excesses of utilities.

Don Cruickshank, the telecoms regulator, can probably deliver the best success story, but then the full deregulation of that market began earlier than the other utilities. Competition reigns in telecoms to such an extent that Mr Cruickshank has said pricing controls for BT will end in 2001. But the regulator's role has widened to enable him to keep a watch on anti-competitive practices. People have seen telephone bills fall significantly and can now benefit from a variety of services hitherto unavailable.

Mr Cruickshank's copy book is currently clean. But his favour is likely to slip when BT implements the next round of phone code changes. Business and consumers cannot see the need for the series of updates to the codes they have endured.

Fundamental questions will be asked by the MPs this year. RPI-X, already earmarked by Labour for the axe, will be queried. There will be wide-ranging debates about the accountability and performance of the regulators. It is likely that equally fundamental conclusions will be reached. Many feel that the end of the individual regulator is nigh.



Labour yearns for Castles in the air

As a devoted admirer of Barbara Castle - her courage, her sparkle even at 85 - I hate writing this: but I do hope she is beaten in the Labour pensions vote today. This is not because I do not wish to help the aged (I am one of them) but because her proposal, though apparently modest, is impossible to guarantee. Lady Castle may defeat the platform because she can still spot a political winner; yet the case against her is not political, but economic - a matter of counting heads. The Tory counter-case for private pensions is also mis-stated. It is not, as they will claim, economic but political - a matter of counting votes.

The economic trap has yawned widest, as we saw last week, in France and Germany. Pension promises have been so extravagant, and the contributions meant to finance them so inadequate, that the published national debt understates the real burden on future taxpayers by two thirds. This is a hidden threat in EMU: if a fiscal merger were to follow, much of this concealed burden would be unloaded onto poorer taxpayers in other countries. But even given modest pensions and honest accounting, as practised in Britain, the US, and even in Italy, more or less, the burden can become intolerable.

The brute fact is that the burden of pensions and welfare entitlements (and there is precious little difference in economic terms) depends mainly on how many can claim. If entitlements are indexed, as Lady Castle wishes, then every point rise in unemployment raises the real welfare bill by about 8 per cent at continental jobless rates (more in more fortunate countries). Every year added to life expectancy does about the same for the pensions bill. If, in addition, the working population is shrinking, as it is in the Catholic countries of Europe, then the claim per working head rises faster still. Simple finger counting will show how easily these burdens can outpace productivity.

And what has productivity to do with it? This brings

us to the second brute fact: entitlements, whether they are funded or unfunded, public or private, are a claim on current, not past, production, whose growth is limited by productivity. This is the economic flaw in the Conservative case. Save for the future, they cannot save for the future. We can invest in houses or factories; but we do not stockpile bread - or currencies, for that matter. Privatised pension schemes provide resources for the future only if they finance a rise in real investment (and successful investment, at that). This has happened in the US but there is precious little sign of it here yet - with one exception.

The exception is buying foreign assets - financial claims on someone else's output. The Japanese have been betting their shirts on this strategy for half a century. Policy has aimed at a sustained current account surplus, which means saving on a national scale. The proceeds were intended to cater for Japan's problem of ageing. The catch has been that the Japanese have proved as bad at investment as they have been good at trade; their astronomical portfolio losses (some \$600 billion and counting) have gone to enrich everyone else. The City, fortunately, is canny. Despite a current deficit, we have managed to build up our overseas assets from £190 billion to £512 billion (£10,000 a head) in less than five years.

Score one to privatised pensions; but against that, score the high costs and low efficiency of the financial sector against the civil service. Hence the pensions mis-selling scandal, and the drift back into Serps. However, running a tight administrative ship will not squeeze quarts out of pint pots and this, as we will unless a fashion for babies, immigration or disease restore the balance - who is going to be blamed? That is the political case for privatisation, and it is a clincher.

An adman's vision expressed as the gospel according to St Luke's

Morag Preston on an agency's unusual approach to creativity

When staff at St Luke's, believed to be the world's only co-tenanted advertising agency, recently stumbled into work, they were aghast to see outlines of bodies marked out on the floor and slumped across the pool table, as if a mass murder had taken place in the night. It was the response that Andy Law, their chairman, hoped for.

In a bid to "stimulate" staff and "provoke" fresh thought, Mr Law took on an art student at the beginning of the summer to redecorate his London office every couple of days. "We are constantly under pressure to come up with new ideas," he explains. "I wanted to enliven and surprise staff; to give them a memory jolt. I wanted to make them look at something conventional in an unconventional way, and trigger those millions of neurons that lie dormant in the brain."

The vast office interior was enclosed in bubble wrap and filled with tempting bon bons. Photographs of all the staff were pickled in gigantic glass jars of luminous liquids and wired to discarded computers. The agency's kitchen was brought to life with an electric light show, and an iridescent stained-glass window depicting an ox with wings, the agency's logo, was hung at the entrance to the building.

Natasha Rampley, a 21-year-old art student in her final year at the University of Central England, carries out her mission as an office "catalyst" after the last employee has left the building. "I want them to feel that they are missing out on something when they go home at night - that the workplace has a life of its own," she says.



Natasha Rampley shows off her stained glass creation

Natasha's favourite project is the army of tiny mice that she painted along the skirting board of the open-plan office. Walking into the office in a state of morning anaesthesia, no one noticed the mice or the mouse holes that concealed miniature chunks of paper cheese with a cryptic message inside. When they did, everyone wanted to know who the culprit was. "There's such a ritual to working that when it comes to the afternoon, people turn into zombies," Natasha says. "I wanted to give them

something else to talk about - a reason to look forward to coming to work."

St Luke's is 100 per cent employee-owned. It was formed less than a year ago, when staff from the London office of Chiat Day, the American agency, decided to go it alone. As testimony to their faith, St Luke's is run under a co-operative scheme called "Quest", whereby each of its 54 employees owns an equal share in the agency. Every month, employees gather in the congenial kitchen-cum-

boardroom to put forward a progress report on one of their colleagues, and twice a year, they will sit down together to discuss one another's salaries.

According to David Abraham, marketing director: "Re-inventing how the company works to your job... It is a very utopian culture, but we have our feet firmly on the ground. We've been up there and tested the concept with the big boys, and it works."

Instead of an office structure with a floor of account men and a separate floor for the creative teams, St Luke's organisation is based around its clients - there is the Midland room and the Boots No 7 room. The employees are like nomads, with a locker, a mobile phone and access to the computer system.

Robbie Sparks, a 44-year-old typographer, kicked out in a T-shirt to commemorate St Luke's "founders' day" on October 18, 1995, is something of an antique in the office. Surrounded by twentysomethings with dreadlocked hair and street-wise trainers, Mr Sparks says: "The people who joined us later are people that we want to be here. We all tend to work in the same direction on the same wavelength... We know about one another's jobs, without treading on any toes."

Problems can occur when it comes to 54 creative minds reaching a conclusive decision. "Is this really something worth voting on?" is not an uncommon question at St Luke's. One newcomer, unable to function without a secretary and a boss to pat him on the back when he had done well, left before he had time even to cash in his shares.

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■ HERITAGE

Venice ponders the problems of restoring the burnt-out shell of its opera house



■ POP 1

The Levellers capture the flavour of their Zeitgeist in a rambunctious show on tour in Newport

THE TIMES ARTS



■ POP 2

... while at Wembley Arena it was a night of contrasts as Lyle Lovett met Mary Chapin Carpenter



■ TOMORROW

Kate Winslet in *Jude*, and the other big film releases, reviewed by Geoff Brown

Should Venice's burnt-out Fenice opera house be restored as it was, or 'improved'? Marcus Binney reports

How to raise the phoenix from the ashes

Money is not the problem with the Fenice. The way the millions are pouring in after the disastrous Venice fire on January 30, Italy could almost raise three phoenixes: the original Neo-Classical theatre of 1792, the replacement after the fire of 1836, and a wholly new opera house.

A new theatre, Zaha Hadid-style, in Venice? Well, the Mayor recently issued a ringing call for exciting new architecture in the city, although he also proclaimed after the fire that the Fenice would be rebuilt "as it was and where it was", echoing the call for the Campanile in St Mark's square to be rebuilt "dov'era e com'era" after its dramatic collapse in 1902.

The task of rebuilding, however, lies with the Prefect, Giovanni Troiani, a man of steel determination. "Work will begin on July 1 next year," he says. "Reconstruction will take 29 months. The Fenice will reopen in November 1999."

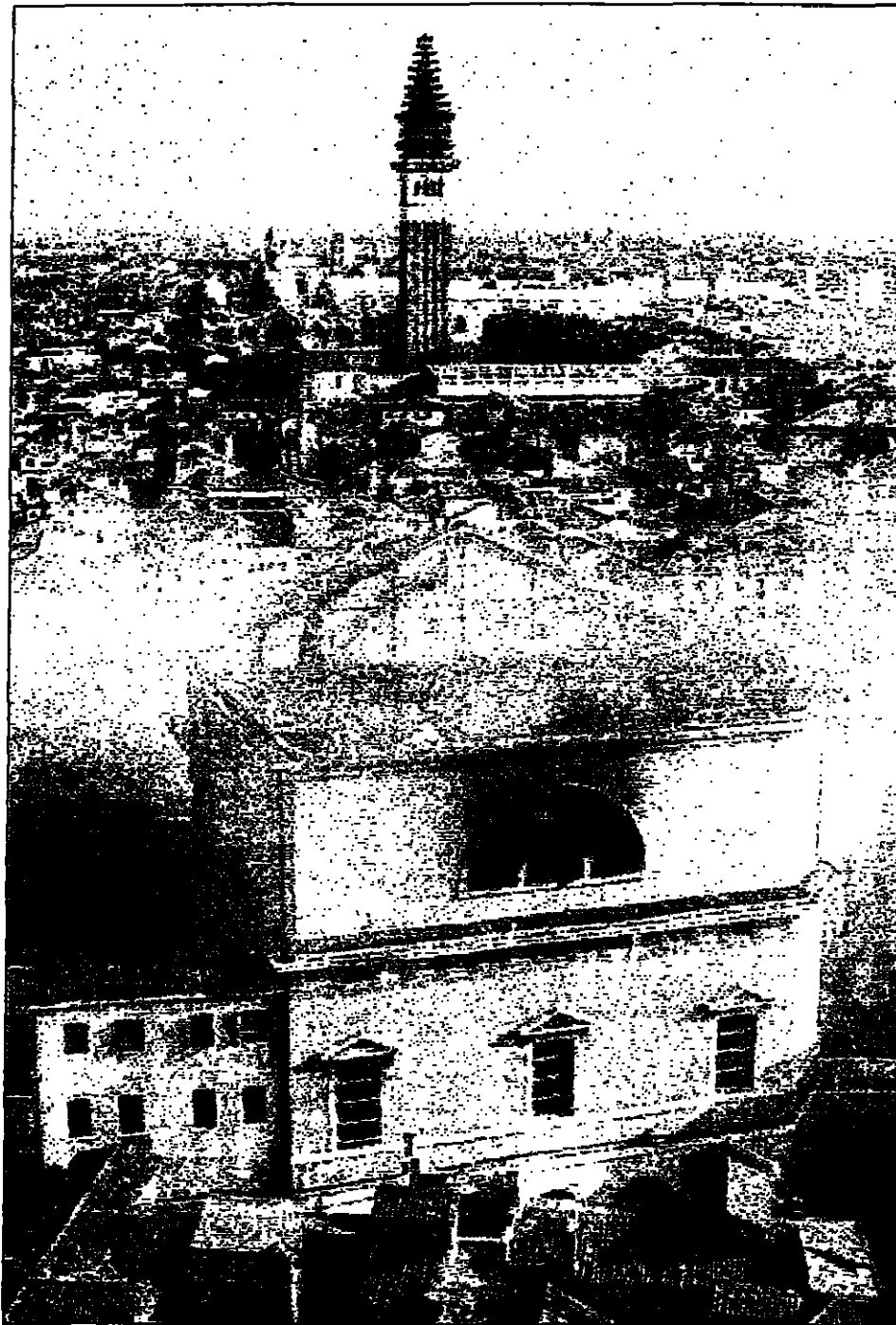
For historians there are many dilemmas. Some say the original theatre by Antonio Selva is better documented than the auditorium of 1836,

which was overlaid with rococo decoration in 1853 and modernised in 1937. Troiani has no intention of being deflected. "As it was means as it was before the fire," he says firmly.

The awesome ferocity of the blaze becomes apparent inside. The auditorium is a vast, gutted shell with walls rising sheer for more than a hundred feet. The steel plates of the safety curtain, twisted and buckled by the inferno, hang like so many tattered ribbons. Above the main staircase, the blackened, charred ceiling beams still smell of smoke.

Yet a remarkable amount of ornamental plasterwork has survived. This poses the question of whether the restoration should be seamless, or the new work be subtly distinguished from the surviving decoration.

After the fires at Uppark and Hampton Court, a vast number of fragments were sifted from the debris by archaeologists. Much less has been retrieved from the Fenice blaze. Ettore Merkel of the Sovrintendenza, Italy's equivalent of English Heritage, says: "We have only about 120 fragments, door handles, small pictures, mirrors, furniture." However, the quantity



The shell of La Fenice on the morning after the fire, with St Mark's in the background; and (right) part of the interior, where a surprising amount of plasterwork has survived



of available architectural and decorative drawings is little short of fabulous. The Sovrintendenza will use it to specify quality and detail throughout, down to guidance

on glazes, varnishes and lacquers. You might think the project would revolve around the appointment of key professionals such as an architect, theatrical design consultant

and acoustician. Instead tenders are being invited from leading building contractors. Initial inquiries have been received not only from EU countries, but from Canada, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan and Korea. A shortlist will be drawn up at the end of October, presentations made in March 1997 and a winner announced.

Each competing contractor will have to present a full team of professionals. But what if one contractor has the best acoustician, another the best engineer? "If we start to pick and choose, the project will take 30 years," says Troiani crisply.

Restoring the painted panels of the balcony fronts, and the painted ceiling above, will be one of the most difficult tasks. Any artistic weakness will be painfully apparent. "It's not a question of being faithful millimetre by millimetre, but of achieving a balance between fidelity and artistic quality," Merkel says.

Since the fire, the British Consulate in Milan has been inundated with offers from

British craftsmen eager for work in Venice. Merkel is open-minded. "Suitable craftsmen might come from Germany or Austria — these countries are closest to us in music tradition."

Venetian craftsmen are fighting back through their own association of artisans. The association's secretary, Gianni de Checchi, says: "There was talk of bringing in Polish or Russian craftsmen, so we did a survey among our 2,000 members, selected 230 artisans with appropriate skills, and narrowed them down to 83. We have formed a consortium, La Nuova Fenice, of stuccatori, flooring specialists, gilders, carvers, upholsterers, papier mâché and marble workers, decorative painters. Our skills are available to all the contractors bidding."

Later this month the judicial inquiry into the fire will be completed. Recent articles in the Italian press have suggest-

ed similarities between the Fenice fire and that which destroyed the opera house at Bari in southern Italy. Both are reported to have begun in more than one place, indicating

conspiracy theory links both fires with the bomb at the Uffizi in Florence and an abortive plan to blow up the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Some observers have suggested they are the work of the Mafia, reacting violently to the Government's crackdown on the organisation.

At the Fenice a clear distinction is being drawn between the public areas, the foyers and auditorium, which will be meticulously restored, and the stage and backstage where, says Troiani, "we will take advantage of whatever modern technology is appropriate."

The crucial question centres on the stage. The Fenice, like many early opera houses,

originally had a projecting forestage, bringing singers closer to the audience and giving the side boxes much better views. But as elsewhere, the forestage was progressively pushed back. Managers wanted more seats, orchestras more space, and stage designers wanted to create a world of illusion behind a proscenium arch.

The theatre historian, Iain Mackintosh, passionately believes the forestage should be returned to the Fenice. "Modern directors want the singers to come out into the house. There's nothing more old-fashioned today than 1950s modernity. If the singers don't come downstage, you end up paying huge sums to tenors strong enough to sing over the orchestra," he says. Mackintosh also argues that the stage, flattened in the Thirties, should once again be raked.

These are important issues. The question is whether they can be resolved before Troiani gives the green light to a restoration which the Fenice's many friends rightly want to see speeding ahead.

30p

THE TIMES

The career path: obstacles removed tomorrow.

Tomorrow, the exciting new Appointments Section is in three parts. It includes Fast Executive, especially for graduates and young professionals in the early stages of their careers. There's also Management Plus, covering positions for middle management, and Premier Appointments for senior vacancies.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES

POP: Country meets rock at Wembley, while folk gets political in Newport

Sweet music with the odd couple

Mary Chapin Carpenter / Lyle Lovett
Wembley Arena

THIS double-header undoubtedly represented good value, but so different are the two singers in style and approach that there cannot have been many in the crowd who really enjoyed both halves equally.

Lyle Lovett is spare and dry of voice, a laconic, wry and sometimes bitterly funny writer. Even those of his songs which at first sound like cliché country are layered with irony and cynicism, although he is far from being unromantic. Mary Chapin Carpenter is all warmth and light, with a wonderfully flexible voice. Sometimes husky, sometimes ringingly clear and strong, it encompasses reflective insight and sexual exuberance.

Lovett, the loner, was in front of his 16-strong Large Band: four singers, four horns, drums, percussion, piano, steel guitar, upright bass, cello, fiddle and guitar. It was a glorious sight and made a wonderful noise, especially on *That's Right, You're Not From Texas*, *Church and I Ought to Be Easy*. The quieter songs — *If I Had a Boat* and the title track from his latest album, *The Road to Ensenada*, among them — had greater emotional impact, although the jazzy *Her First Mistake* drifted into man-

nered, Rickie Lee Jones territory. Altogether an impressive display of the Lovett strengths. With more of a swagger than might have been expected. Chapin Carpenter was also in confident mood, but fielded only five other musicians, including two guitarists. This was very much a rock band, and it fairly tore into the likes of *I Take My Chances*, *Passionate Kisses*, *I Wanna Be Your Girlfriend*, *I Feel Lucky* and *He Thinks He'll Keep Her*.

But the ballads were what most people had come to hear, and they were superb. A hush fell during *My Pirate Days*, *Sudden Gift of Faith*, an unaccompanied *Why Walk When You Can Fly* and two magical encores. It was a shame that she did not offer *What If We Went to Italy?*, a quiet gem which is the finest thing on her forthcoming *Place in the World* album.

TONY PATRICK

Rabble-rousers renew their roar

The Levellers
Newport Centre

FORMER champions of the marginalised and dispossessed, the Levellers have learnt to embrace material success in recent years. Scoring a million-selling No 1 with last year's album, *Zeitgeist*, and buying their own headquarters, the Metway, seem to have replenished the Brighton-based quintet's creativity.

Where once their fiddle-driven folk tunes betrayed their busking origins, now they roar like hearty English cousins of Celtic stadium rockers such as Big Country or the Waterboys.

Eight years of heavy touring have made the Levellers a supremely assured live act. While their sturdy marriage of simple melodies and rabble-rousing rhetoric remains essentially unchanged, their energetic delivery and muscular arrangements gave crowd-pleasers such as *Fifteen Years and Hope Street* a gleaming new lick of paint.

Aside from the bizarre intervention of a killed didgeridoo player during *This Garden*, the stage presentation was unfussy and powerfully stark. Which is exactly what Levellers fans expect — as they proved with their unbridled hysteria and chaotic crowd surfing.

STEPHEN DALTON

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 1996

Rachel Kelly seeks out the best advice for buyers and sellers in an improving but still difficult market

How to behave in a boom

This is a horrid market. Though prices are up by 6.7 per cent compared with a year ago, says the Nationwide and estate agents are cheering, those who are actually trying to buy and sell are demoralised.

Buyers cannot find anything suitable to buy and sellers are worried about getting the best price. Yet others selling anything less than perfect often cannot sell at all. Tales of an 18-minute exchange on a maisonette in Cambridge last week are not for them.

Tim Wright of Savills's Kensington office says: "Don't enter the market with a weak disposition." Michael Parry-Jones, of Brown's Guildford office, agrees. "This is one of the most difficult markets for buyers for many years," he says.

The largest London agent, Winkworth, has 20 per cent fewer properties on its books than last year, a cry repeated by agents countrywide. Colin Mackenzie of Hamptons says: "News of the recovery has got through, but there is still unhappiness about selling at current market values. Supply in the country house market is drying up because of the influx of money that has been recently made and is being spent for pleasure. People with this capital are buying without selling."

Others are selling privately. Property Vision bought £30 million worth of houses this year before they came on the market. There seems to be little hope of improvement. Simon Agace of Winkworth says that problems will last because there is no significant increase in earnings to allow owners to trade up.

The present state of play calls for a more competitive class of buyer and seller. To help, here is a guide for buyers and sellers.

Buyers, Mr Agace says, should be more flexible about where, and in what, they want to live. Peter Rollings, of Foxtons, points out that being nice to your agent will mean that you will be kept better informed of properties on the market. Thereafter, buyers must

move fast. Mark Oliver, of Savills in Ipswich, says that if you have extra criteria in the sale, make it known to vendors as soon as possible so as not to frighten them off.

Martin Lamb of Knight Frank in the West Country, says: "It is worth chatting up the seller to prove that you are keen and will not disappear. Try to sell first so you have your capital ready."

Avoid gazumping by arranging a lockout clause with the vendor, which is legally binding. The seller agrees that he will not consider other offers, say for two weeks, once your offer has been accepted. You can therefore get the house surveyed knowing that you will not be gazumped. Set a date to exchange contracts as soon as possible.

Michael Conyn, of John D. Wood, in Wandsworth, south

London, says that if you have extra criteria in the sale, make it known to vendors as soon as possible so as not to frighten them off.

Interested buyers can be invited to bid together in a competitive auction. Mr Petherick prefers auction as it normally produces the highest price for the vendor.

Or those interested can be asked to submit their best bids above the asking price by post. Tender does allow you to choose the actual buyer, which may be an important consideration if you will be living near by.

The best advice for those houses that resolutely fail to sell is to cut the price and switch agents.

Prime your solicitors so that you can exchange quickly and commission a survey, especially if you own an older house, says David Bedford, of Bedford in East Anglia.

If a house needs structural repair, think about applying for planning permission so that a buyer does not have to, says Graham Merrett of Cluttons's Bath office.

And as Mr Oliver says, "If you are thinking about waiting for house prices to rise, don't expect prices to rise between 5 per cent and 10 per cent over the next year, perhaps higher in desirable commuter areas — but we will not see the 35 per cent rises of the 1980s heydays."

He believes that the general election will also probably slow the market and interest rates may rise. "The market is," he says, "always quieter over the winter period, so sell before mid-November or wait until next March. But if you are thinking of selling soon, take photographs of the property now, while the sun is out and the leaves are still on the trees."

Additional research by Tom Newton Dunn



"All we wanted": Howard and Jamie Elston, son Rupert and baby Edward outside their house in Balham, south London

"I NEVER appreciated what my husband did for a living until it came to buying our house," says Jamie Elston, 35. "It certainly helps if you have an estate agent in the family." Howard Elston runs the Sloane Street office of Strutt & Parker. His wife runs Jago D'Arcy, a public relations agency.

"Howard could sum up in less than five minutes the pros and cons and potential of everything we looked at," Mrs Elston says. "He didn't even have to see most houses: a quick scan of the details followed occasionally by a look at a street map and he knew what was worth viewing. He was also more dispassionate: where I saw huge rambling rooms and romantic bare boards in one house, he saw a money pit in terms of carpets, curtains and furniture."

"Another house I was keen on was dispatched when he pointed out the railway line at the bottom of the garden, the proximity of the main road and a flight path. I have to admit that I missed the lot. 'Any eventual purchase would have to appeal not only to us, but

Tips from the real experts

more importantly, to the people to whom we would sell it on."

In the end, the couple bought a four bedroom, one bathroom, double-fronted, semi-detached house in Ouseley Road, Balham, south London, for £200,000. The house had been home to scores of students over the years, was in bad repair and had been on the market for a while. Mr Elston says: "The layout was wrong, but with the help of a builder friend who was going to project-manage the job, we worked out how to shuffle things around."

Their own house, which was sensibly priced, sold in a week and because the new owners insisted on moving in quickly, the Elstons obliged by getting out three weeks later and rented. They made a first

offer on the Balham house, "just to test the water", but it was rejected.

Mrs Elston says: "We then made a best and final offer and asked for an exclusive contract for a short period. Getting gazumped at this stage would have been a nightmare."

"We then had extraordinary difficulties getting our mortgage offer through and things kept being delayed. We phoned the agent regularly to keep him informed of what was happening so that he could reassure his client. And we got our solicitor to write to him so he knew we were genuinely interested and not time-wasters."

"I was panicking but Howard kept calm and simply did all the right things to ensure that we

didn't lose the house. Eventually, we exchanged and completed soon after."

The Elstons moved in three months later. A huge bedroom had become two good-sized children's rooms and the vital second bathroom had been created from another bedroom. Downstairs now offered a drawing room, dining room and playroom/sitting room/kitchen to make the classic four-bedroom, two-bathroom and reception rooms essential in a family house.

Mrs Elston says: "All the things we really wanted we managed to get, including a house that is double-fronted and feels like a proper house rather than having a corridor with rooms off one side. The location was right and becoming increasingly fashionable, the neighbourhood (which Howard checked thoroughly beforehand) was ideal and quiet, and parking was easy. We also heard that a well-known local estate agent lived opposite: a good sign."

RACHEL KELLY

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Bitte schreiben Sie mit Lebenslauf unter Angabe des augenblicklichen Gehalts an: Mr C R Luff, Personnel Manager, REHAU Limited, Hill Court, Watford, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5GN.

Strictly no agencies

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Candidates must have first class W4W6 and shorthand skills (60/100). A levels, be highly computer literate with Powerpoint experience, have relevant large and small company experience, and be a team player with energy, commitment and flexibility.

Please fax letter, demonstrating how these requirements are met, and full CV including present salary to Mr R Mathrani, Vanguard Capital on 0171 584 8595.



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Imperial College School of Medicine

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Experienced Secretary

Applications are invited for a suitably qualified Secretary, medical experience preferred. The successful candidate will work together with the Unit Administrator to provide full support to the Professor of Molecular Neurogenetics and his team, in an exciting and forward-moving research environment. Duties include typing of correspondence, processing of expenses claims, record keeping, etc. in which there is a requirement for strict confidentiality and meticulous care. Excellent wordprocessing skills are necessary (Microsoft Word on a PC) plus shorthand at 100 wpm and audio typing.

Salary in the range £14,028 - £15,904 inclusive of London Weighting, plus free season ticket loan. Interested applicants should apply in writing together with a detailed CV plus names and addresses of two referees (including phone and fax numbers, please) to Ms F Hooton, Neurogenetics Unit, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, Imperial College School of Medicine at St Mary's, Norfolk Place, London W2 1PG. Applications may also be faxed to: 0171 706 7094.

Closing date: 18th October 1996.

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Are you a perfectionist in your typing output? (Word & Excel)
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Do you thrive on being challenged?

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If this appeals to you please write enclosing your CV, and convince us why we should select you for the interview.

Please write to: Openings Director, IDA Limited, Elm Place House, 55a High Street, Watlington Village, SW19 5BA.

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Please send your CV to: Mrs S.E. Richards, Personnel Manager, 25 Edgemoor Place, London SW1W 9NF or Tel: 0171 881 0271.

PA TO CHAIRMAN

We are a busy international firm of Surveyors, Valuers and Auctioneers.

We are looking for a highly efficient, self-motivated Office Manager/PA to our Senior Partner, a Team Leader who can ensure that our office runs efficiently and has the competence to be able to deal with current issues in his absence.

The tasks will be challenging involving a wide range of professional duties including, organising the Senior Partner's diary, travel arrangements, organisation/management of the office, company hospitality events etc. The candidate must be competent with Microsoft Word 6.0 for Windows and a knowledge of spreadsheets would be an advantage. Good audio and copy typing skills are essential.

Please respond in strict confidence with CV stating your current salary in Mr P. Bach's.

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Secretary to Chairman's PA & Team Secretary

Today's Post Office is a highly commercial group of specialist businesses responding to the challenges of change. These roles, both of which are based on Old Street in Central London, are challenging, fast-moving and suitable for only the highest calibre candidates.

Secretary to Chairman's PA up to £20,341

Part of the Chairman and Chief Executive's team, you will perform a wide range of secretarial tasks including arranging meetings, making travel arrangements and preparing presentations. Your technical skills should include audio, Word for Windows 6 and other computer packages.

Team Secretary up to £17,847

This position, part of a secretarial unit within our Group Strategy and Personnel division, offers a great deal of variety. Therefore, to succeed here you'll need the versatility and personality to handle conflicting priorities. Your technical skills should include audio, copy and a sound knowledge of Word for Windows 6, Powerpoint, Lotus Notes and Organiser. Opportunities to progress further from this position will be excellent.

For both positions, you will need to be self-motivated and keen to take your own decisions whenever necessary. As you will be coming into contact with all kinds of people at all kinds of levels, both face-to-face and over the telephone, you'll also have to be pleasant in your outlook, confident and ideally have a good sense of humour.

The workload will often be challenging, so good time management skills and a willingness to work hard are pre-requisite. As you will come into contact with confidential information in these positions, it's essential that you also have a high level of integrity.

All applications should be sent to Althea Satchell, POSG Personnel, Room 204, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. All applications must be received by 16th October 1996.

The Post Office is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. Suitably qualified applicants with disabilities will be shortlisted.

Senior Secretary/PA

Required for large International Organisation based in North London. Due to recent rapid expansion a position has become available to work alongside the Swedish Company Director.

If you are prepared for the challenge of working in a fast paced environment and capable of providing first class support then this is the position for you.

The ideal candidate should possess excellent verbal and written communication skills and a complete knowledge of Microsoft Office. Flexibility, initiative and a talent for organisation must be among your strongest attributes. Languages are an advantage due to the international culture of the company.

The position will offer a competitive salary.

If you believe you match the criteria then please forward your CV, quoting your most recent salary to:

MS. Helen Fay,
1A Aubert Pl., Highbury,
London N5 1TL.

Persona Group plc

PA TO CHAIRMAN

Persona is a leading computer networking distribution and services group. We are seeking to recruit a professional candidate to work as Personal Assistant to our Chairman.

The ideal candidate should be aged between 25 and 40 and have experience of working at a senior level. They must be well educated, well spoken, self-motivated, flexible and efficient. They will have excellent organisational and administrative skills, be computer literate and fast, accurate shorthand and typewriting skills with a minimum speed of 100 wpm and 60 wpm respectively. They will provide comprehensive support to the Chairman and must have first class presentation. Discretion, tact and diplomacy, coupled with the ability to deal with people at all levels, are vital for this high profile role.

An excellent package is available to the right candidate including private health care.

Please send a comprehensive CV with a covering letter to: Louise Connor, Personnel Officer, Persona plc, Unit 3, Lambeth Road, Cheamington, Surrey, KT9 2NQ. Tel: 01372 737476

PA/SECRETARY

DIRECTOR LEVEL

c£18,000 Central London

Independent Care is a dynamic health care company providing a broad variety of health care services throughout the UK. Its business base is predominantly in the South-east, with a head office in Central London.

The Managing Director requires a Personal Assistant/Secretary to handle his extremely varied workload and to take sole charge of the office where the Chairman and Finance Director are also based. Applicants should have considerable secretarial experience and excellent WP skills. They will be mature, calm, flexible and diplomatic, and have particular skills in relation to people at all levels. They will have great self-motivation, and the ability to show initiative in all aspects of their job. This is a vitally important role within a small and extremely dynamic management team, and for the right person offers enormous job satisfaction.

Candidates should apply in writing, with full personal and career details to: Mrs Carolyn Davies, Independent Care Ltd, 26 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NS. Telephone: 0171-630 8001 - Fax: 0171-630 6842

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Senior Secretary to Dean of School of Arts & Sciences

Salary c£16,500 per annum. Good benefits including free lunches.

Duties to include administrative and secretarial support, management of office, monitoring of budgets, database management, and liaison with other University Units. Experience with Microsoft Office programs and five consecutive years in senior secretarial posts required. Initiative, flexibility, good multi-task and interpersonal skills essential. An interest in academic matters and intercultural sensitivity strongly desired. The University employs staff of any race, colour or ethnic origin. Letters of Application to: Director Personnel Services, Richmond, The American International University in London, Queens Road, Richmond Surrey, TW9 6JP. By 11 October 1996.

Tel: 0181 332 8237 Fax: 0181 332 0128

RICHMOND THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN LONDON

Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland

The Association is seeking to recruit two skilled secretarial staff to join its administration team. Ideal candidates will be educated to A-level standard and possess excellent organisational, computer and communication skills. They should enjoy working as part of a small team and have a flexible and enterprising approach to their work.

PA to Administration Manager

The PA will assist the Administration Manager in the day to day running of the Association's headquarters and provide a secretarial service for the President and senior officers of the Association. This post will carry considerable responsibility and require a mature and flexible approach. Salary range: £14-17,000.

Committee Secretary/Secretary to the Pain Society

The appointee's responsibilities will comprise the collation and circulation of agenda and related papers to the various Association committees and the provision of a membership and secretarial service to the Pain Society (an affiliated society of doctors specialising in the management of pain). The successful candidate should enjoy working on their own initiative and be able to manage a varied and often heavy workload. Salary range: £14-16,000.

Please send full CV with covering letter to: Mrs L. Ogle, The Association of Anaesthetists, 9 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3RA.

Closing date for applications is 11th October.

PA to MD

Entertainment industry publishing

Central London

Aspire, energetic and multi-skilled? Know your Hip-Hop from your Brit-Pop? Top-Tight PA experience? These are the key qualities you'll need to join the MD of this extremely successful publishing company in central London. In an environment that's as fresh, creative and dynamic as the international entertainment industry it serves.

You'll manage the diary. Prioritise competing demands on time and attention. Take shorthand, and use Word and Excel packages. Prepare materials and data for board meetings. Organise travel. And act as eyes, ears and fort-holder when the MD's away. Any language skills will be put to good use.

This job offers interest, challenge and fun, as well as an excellent salary/benefits package. In the first instance, please send your CV to: Diana Lomax, Head of Personnel & Training, Miller Freeman plc, 30 Calderwood Street, Woolwich, London SE18 6QH.

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EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

required for small but busy firm of Surveyors and Structural Engineers in Central London.

Salary negotiable.

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Please fax CV to 0171 409 1307.

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for Book Publishing company. Must have excellent computer and keyboard skills. 80wpm shorthand.

Confident telephone manner essential.

Please send CV to Suite 2, 2 Old Brompton Rd, London, SW7 3QQ.

SECRETARY/PA TO PARTNER

Weatherall Green & Smith, an international firm of chartered surveyors, is looking for an experienced Secretary/PA to work for a partner based in our St James's Square office. This position will only suit those seeking a busy role offering involvement and responsibility and who possess excellent audio typing skills (65+ wpm) and telephone manner, along with the ability to prioritise a demanding workload. A sound working knowledge of Word for Windows is essential.

Please send your cv, stating salary expectations to: Alexia Porteous, Personnel Officer, 22 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1LT.

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To find out more details, please telephone John Lowe, Director, in confidence, on 0171 439 6288. If you are calling after working hours please leave your name and contact number on our answering machine.

Barchester Royce Limited, Chesham House, 150 Regent Street, London W1R 5FA.

AUDIO SECRETARY/PA

Any director of successful property consultancy requires a professional, motivated and reliable secretary to provide support to Board Director and account teams. Applicant must have two years suitable experience, be computer literate (specifically in Power Point) and have excellent organisational skills.

Salary: £18,000

Please apply with full CV and references to: Louise Fordham, GCL, 1 Chelsea Manor Gardens, London, SW3 3SD.

A REALLY GOOD MATURE PA/SECRETARY

(to replace current who is retiring after 25 happy years)

Small overseas marketing co. (US/EU) based W.I. Minimum 6 months experience. MS Windows-Office required. Salary to £18K + health insurance.

Pls C.V. 0171 323 4344 or phone 0171 255 3131

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Please call John Jones on 0171 377 9919 or fax your CV on 0171 377 6455.

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If you feel that your organisational skills and caring attitude are not being utilised then this unusual job will be of interest to you. Working for a family orientated equity partner who is second in command of this medium sized law firm Private Equity Department, you will not only organise a busy diary and deal with high ranking clients but also be the first point of contact for other secretaries. This will involve helping any work related problems and also liaising with senior staff if there are any major updates. At least two years corporate experience is a must.

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LEGAL RECRUITMENT

HOBSTONES

**Bi-Lingual PA
St. Pauls
£21,300 + Benefits**

This well renowned major city law firm have a requirement for a PA from a corporate background who is fluent in French. The position involves working for a senior partner who deals with blue chip mergers and acquisitions and will necessitate you speaking with French clients on a daily basis. You will be a born organiser and reliable the opportunity to become the right hand assistant for this very busy and successful partner. The firm have a reputation for looking after their staff and offer a comprehensive benefits package.

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(to £10 per hour)**

We URGENTLY need to expand our professional temp team & many of our assignments require that "extra skill". We would love to hear from you if you have a fast typing speed (50wpm+) & knowledge of a windows package but any of the following would be a real bonus:

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- Spreadsheet knowledge
- Experience of Unilever
- Database knowledge
- DTP/Presentation skills

For a chat or an appointment call Liz, Holly or Isabel on 0171 437 6032 West End Office

RECRUITMENT

HOBSTONES

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£18,500 plus overtime
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Join this large, international company as secretary to a charming, newly appointed high flyer and you will find yourself in the driving seat. You will set up systems, assist with client development work, and act as a linchpin in a very hectic office. If you have proven organisational ability, high standards and excellent Microsoft Word for Windows this is a wonderful opportunity.

Please telephone Sharon 0171 437 6032.

RECRUITMENT

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c£18,000 + Bank Benefits

Merchant Bank seek proactive secretary to complement their Transactions team. You will be confident, with flexible attitude towards hours, have the ability to prioritise, use initiative and remain calm under pressure. Banking background is essential. Benefits include performance related bonus and in-house gym.

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Shorthand PA with a minimum of three years experience at Director level within a Banking Institution. Demanding role incorporating extensive diary, travel, correspondence, and Microsoft Office presentations. You will be flexible, committed to long hours, articulate and eminently calm.

Similar temp to perm positions also exist, please call ANDRIA SAXELBY.

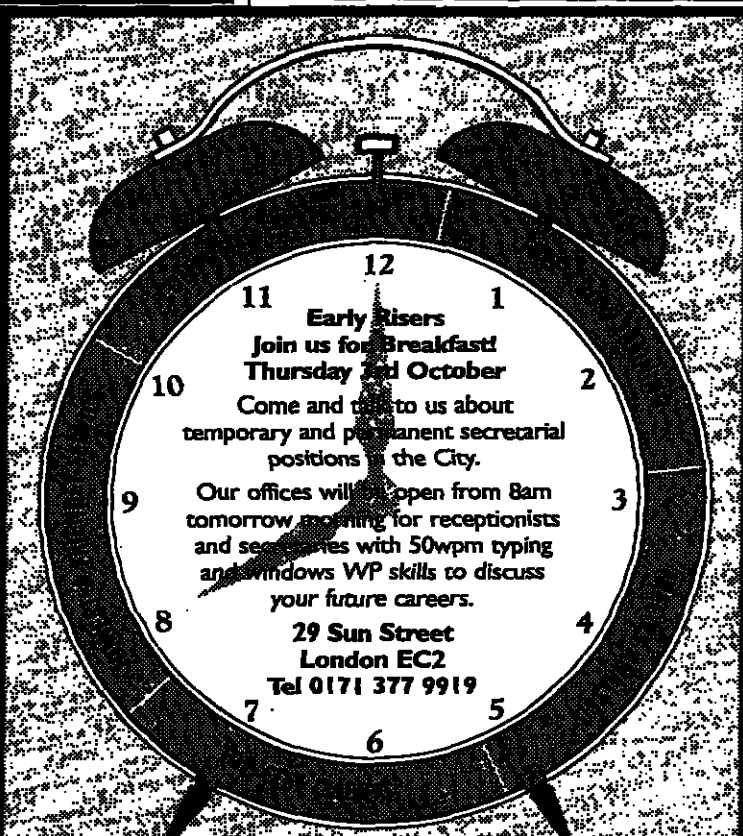
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Are you looking to join a top merchant bank which realises that its greatest resource is its staff. Forget suits, egos and tantrums, the people in the Personnel team are friendly, co-operative and desperate for a good, solid administrator. Packages are Word for Windows, Excel and PowerPoint. Whilst we are looking for a professional administrator, good secretarial skills are required, and ideally some experience of co-ordinating temporary secretaries. Interested? Well you know what to do.

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TV SECRETARY c£16,500

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To learn more about the role, the company and its excellent benefits package please call:
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Exceptional opportunity for a career minded PA to work for this seriously successful man who is a driving force in one of the world's leading Investment Banks. To attend meetings on his behalf, co-ordinate high profile projects and manage highly confidential work, you will have stamina, energy and drive. You will be a qualified Secretary with a minimum of 5 years' experience using your fast typing and PC skills.

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SECRETARIAL DIVISION

TRADING FLOOR SECRETARY

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City Temp to Perm
This position would suit a professional and highly organised secretary looking for an involved team secretarial role within a leading US Investment Bank. Duties will include preparation of detailed presentation material, arranging conferences and overseas meetings as well as executive telephone liaison with high net worth individuals. Excellent phone manner, calm and professional demeanour and banking experience will be required. Compensation/benefits are superb.

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The successful applicant will have excellent communication and admin skills (Word and Excel) with a flexible and enthusiastic approach.

a Profit Share Bonus. Please send a comprehensive cv, marked Private & Confidential to: Brio Financial Services Limited (Recruitment Specialists) 44 Bury Street, St James's, London SW1V 6AG. Tel: 0171 839 0000 Fax: 0171 925 2611/12

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ROC

PA to SHOWROOM DIRECTOR

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GALT ASSOCIATES

RUGBY UNION

Combined effort to spread gospel

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NOTTINGHAM, at the foot of the second division in the Courage Clubs Championship, have agreed to explore a future with Sheffield Eagles, the ambitious rugby league club which lies little more than 40 miles to the north.

Where wealthier clubs than Nottingham have opted to cherry-pick established rugby league players, Nottingham and Sheffield pursue different aims. Nottingham seek the commercial expertise that the Eagles have shown in their 12-year history and perhaps to benefit from the use of their players, while Sheffield hope to carry their summer sport into the Midlands void just south of the city.

It is a rare shaft of light for Nottingham, who, since 1991, have slipped gradually down the second division, after enjoying five seasons in the first, and have yet to win a league game this season. They lost Roger Whitaker, their director of rugby, last month, yet remain committed to sustaining a strong rugby union presence in Nottingham though possibly not at their ground in Beeston.

They have an agreement with David Wilson Homes, a building company, which provides an option on their ground at any time over the next five years, subject to planning permission; meanwhile, they hope that the business acumen displayed by the Eagles will benefit them. When Gary Hetherington, the Eagles coach, returns from the Great Britain tour to the southern hemisphere, they will discuss whether any Sheffield players can be loaned out.

"They [Sheffield] are prepared to help on our commercial side, where we are particularly weak," John Drapkin, the Nottingham president, said. "We would hope to consolidate our position in the second division and to reach a situation in which we could make a realistic attempt to recover first division status."

Diprose to captain Barbarians

TONY DIPROSE, the Saracens captain, is to lead the Barbarians squad in the inaugural Air France sevens, in Paris on October 11 and 12. Six other Barbarians teams from New Zealand (who include John Kirwan), South Africa, South America, Scotland, France and Italy are among the 24 entrants for a tournament that will coincide with a conference debating the validity of the Barbarians ethos in a world of professional rugby union.

The Barbarians are scheduled to end the Australia tour of Scotland, Ireland and Wales on December 7, but the final itinerary has still to be agreed. The Australians desperately hope to play England at Twickenham, to their playing the full England side, thus allowing them to complete a grand-slam tour.

However, with 51,000 tickets sold for the Barbarians v Australia game and an English league programme scheduled that day, that option is not available. The home unions must wait to see if Australia, as they have threatened, decline to play Wales on December 1 and revert to their original schedule in Scotland and Ireland.

BARBARIANS SEVENS SQUAD: S. Huxley (Leicester), D. Cheesman (Preston), J. Greenwood (Leicester), A. Huxley (Leicester), K. Strickland (Saracens), D. J. Jones (Leicester), R. Coddin (Leicester), A. Diprose (Saracens), J. Morgan (West Yorkshire).

FOOTBALL: INFLATED FEES IN BRITAIN FORCE SMALLER PREMIERSHIP CLUBS TO LOOK ABROAD FOR NEW RECRUITS

Souness profits from import policy

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

GRAHAM SOUNESS has always had his doubts about investing in continental players. He has regarded them as little more than cheap imports looking for a quick buck, unable or unwilling to cope with the cultural and linguistic changes. Overrated yet over here.

However, since his arrival at Southampton, Souness has had to join the FA Carling Premiership bandwagon, forced into plundering Europe by the inflated prices of the domestic market. The talk at The Dell this season has not so much been about Le Tissier, Le Tissier and Le Tissier but Flo, Ostendstad, Berkovich, Bresciani, Alves and Lundekvam.

"English football has often been a graveyard for foreign stars but the game has

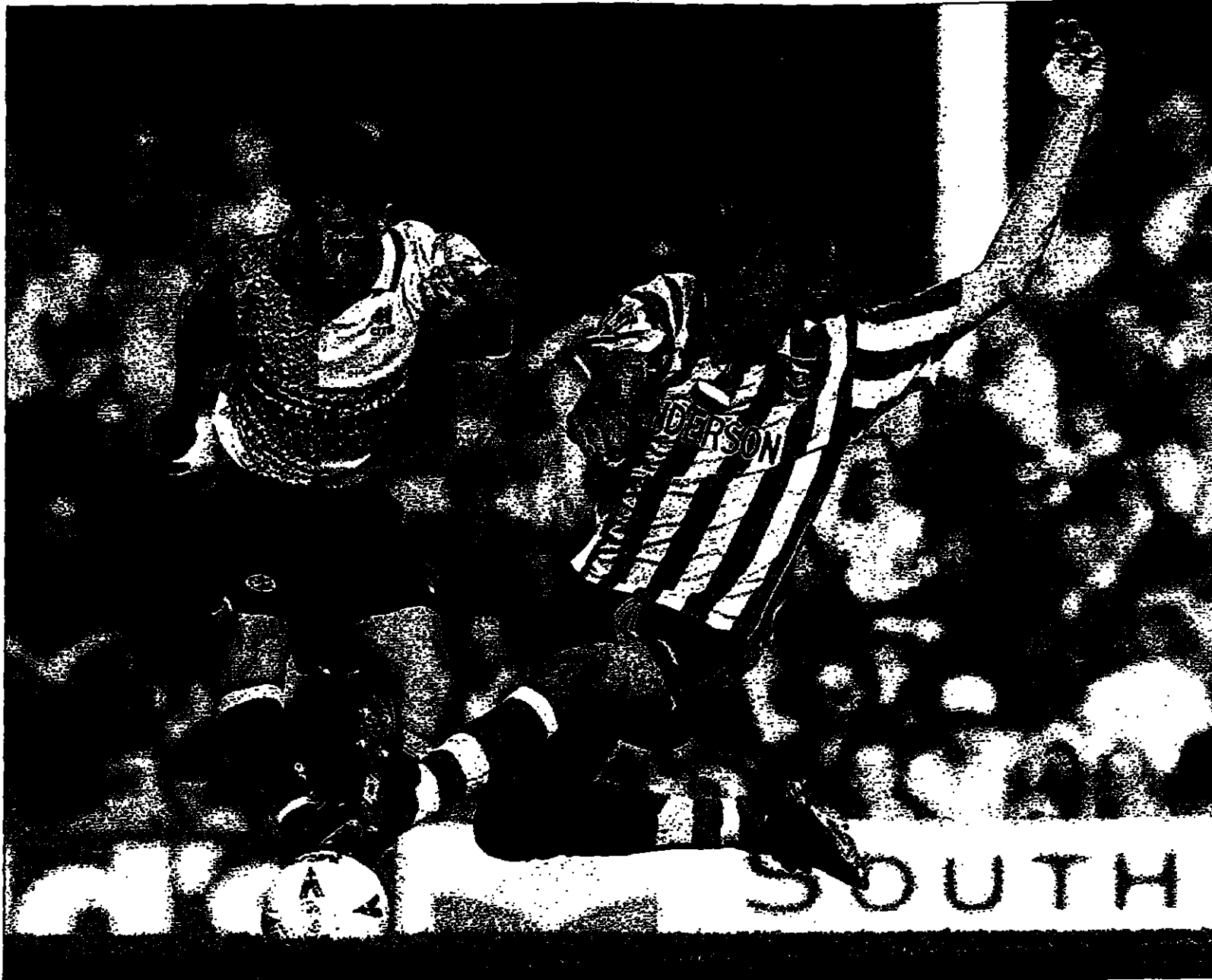
Portsmouth manager Terry Fenwick, coach Keith Waldon and director Terry Brady have been charged with misconduct by the Football Association. It follows remarks allegedly made to referee Martin Bodenham after the Coca-Cola Cup defeat by Wimbledon at Fratton Park last week.

changed so much, it's so different now," Souness said. "Clubs like us can't compete with the big boys but you can still pick up bargains abroad if you look hard enough."

Souness has clocked up more air miles than he cares to count in the past month. Giorgio Bresciani, of Bologna, spent a week on trial before disappearing back to Italy, and Paolo Alves, of Sporting Lisbon, engaged in lengthy discussions about a one-year loan deal.

One source suggested that Alves was less than impressed with Southampton's 3-1 defeat against Wimbledon. Another indicated that his financial demands defied credibility. Either way, he went back to Portugal.

Of the remaining quartet, Souness has experienced better fortune. Claus Lundekvam, 23, the former SK Brann central defender, has slotted easily into the back four and made five successive appearances since his



Lundekvam, a Souness acquisition, tackles Juninho, of Middlesbrough, during Southampton's 4-0 victory on Saturday. Photograph: Robin Jones

E400,000 move from Norway. On Saturday, in the 4-0 win against Middlesbrough, he gave Fabrizio Ravanelli, the Italy striker, an uncomfortable 90 minutes. Ravanelli was so disoriented that he missed a penalty.

"Claus has played against Wimbledon, been to Anfield and now faced Ravanelli," Souness said. "He's learning what it's all about and he's done very well. Once he settles in properly, I'm sure he'll improve even more."

Eyal Berkovich, 24, the Maccabi Haifa midfielder player, has signed a letter of intent

and returned to Israel until his work permit is granted. Having won 37 international caps, it is unlikely the £1 million move will fall through on bureaucratic grounds.

The purchase of Thor-Andre Flo, the younger brother of Jostein Flo, the former Sheffield United striker, is also on temporary hold. Southampton have agreed a fee of £1.2 million, with SK Brann, for the 6ft 4in forward but the club will not release him while it is still involved in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Egil Ostendstad, though, is already aboard, having signed

from Viking Stavanger for £800,000 on Monday. "He could be the new Steve Bull," Souness said, reference to Ostendstad's direct approach up front. He and Berkovich could make their debuts at Coventry City on October 13.

No Southampton tale is complete without a mention of Matthew Le Tissier, whose future at the club appears more settled now that Souness's travels have proved fruitful. Had they not, Le Tissier might have had to have been offloaded to finance some shopping nearer home.

Erratic though he still is, Le

Tissier's form is gradually reaching a more consistent level. He has emerged from the depths of last season and regained his place in the England squad, after the departure of Terry Venables, the coach, and appointment of Glenn Hoddle as successor.

Room for improvement remains, with Souness ordering extra afternoon training in an attempt to shed some of the surplus weight from the Le Tissier frame. He has lost five pounds and is aiming to trim another six.

Souness said: "I have had a long chat with Glenn about

Matthew and we are doing what we can to improve him. There are not many players anywhere with his natural talent but he needs to work harder if we are to get the best out of him."

Le Tissier, who is hoping for a place in the England side to play Poland in the World Cup qualifying match at Wembley next Wednesday, said: "I don't mind coming back in the afternoons. If the manager thinks it will help me, I'm more than happy to go along with it. I've never had a proper run for England, but I'm feeling confident again."

Wenger states lofty ambition

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ARSENE WENGER, the new Arsenal manager, started work at Highbury yesterday and left no one in any doubt as to his aims. "My ambition is to win every match and every competition we play in," he said.

The Frenchman, whose arrival from Nagoya Grampus Eight, the Japanese club, has been delayed by more than a month, knows that managerial success in England has, so far, eluded non-Britons, but refused to let such bald facts disturb his bullish approach.

"The league championship is the mark of real quality for me, the first ambition," he said. "Everything follows from that. But there is quite a lot of work to do because other clubs — like Manchester United, Liverpool and Newcastle — have made big steps for-

ward since Arsenal were last champions.

"I will aim to try to improve the club at every level, from the first team down to the youth system. It will be no sudden revolution but there will be a gradual transition."

Wenger, who will have to wait ten days for his first match, at Blackburn Rovers, said he regarded the experienced trio of David Seaman, 32, the England goalkeeper, Tony Adams, 30, the defender, and Ian Wright, the forward who will be 33 next month, as the backbone of the team.

He said: "Over the next few days I will be talking to the players on an individual basis but nobody need fear coming to see me," he said.

"I will not be cutting anybody but I would like to buy new players as well because

the squad is a bit small. I look at Ian Wright and he is not like a normal 33. He is extremely fit and strong. It is the same with Tony Adams, who I know is a great leader. And for Seaman, as a goalkeeper, his age is unimportant."

Martin Scott, the Sunderland defender sent off against Arsenal at Highbury on Saturday, has had a second operation in three months. The 28-year-old has a hernia operation before the season began and had further surgery yesterday on a troublesome groin injury.

Youri Mulder, the Schalke 04 forward, has pulled out of the Holland squad for the World Cup group seven qualifying match against Wales on Saturday because of an ankle injury.

Wilkins rejects Hibernian

RAY WILKINS yesterday ruled himself out of consideration to succeed Alex Miller as manager of Hibernian. But the former England international is keen to return to the club for a second month's contract as a player.

Miller left Easter Road after a decade in charge, which made him the longest-serving manager in the Bell's Scottish League premier division. Douglas Crompt, the Hibernian chairman, hopes to have a new manager installed by the time Rangers, the champions, visit Edinburgh on October 12.

Gordon Strachan, now with Coventry City, could be the favourite among Hibernian supporters, who want a Scot in charge after seeing Jim Jefferies, a lifelong Heart of Midlothian supporter, make a sound start to his managerial career at Tynecastle.

Murdo MacLeod, a former Hibernian midfielder player and, at present, the Partick Thistle manager, could also be among the candidates, along with Terry Christie, Alex McLeish, Jim Duffy and Steve Archibald. But Wilkins, the former Queens Park Rangers

manager, who completed a month's playing contract on Saturday with the home defeat by Hearts, will not apply.

"I am not interested in the managerial position," Wilkins said. "I would prefer to take a break from management at present. But I intend returning to Hibs for another month as a player. I spoke to Alex about it after Saturday's game and agreed, verbally, to stay another month."

"I've spoken to the chairman since then and have agreed to come back. My word is my bond and I have enjoyed playing with a great set of lads at Hibs. But if a new manager comes in and doesn't feel I fit the bill as a player in the short term, then so be it."

Jocky Scott, Miller's assistant, is in temporary charge of Hibernian while their former manager takes a day off today for the first time in 30 years.



Wilkins: eager to play

Official's life on line when passion turns to menace

The gruesome side of the Spanish passion for football was revealed yesterday when a first division linesman went into hiding after receiving death threats from fans. Rafael Guerrero Alonso incurred the wrath of all Zaragoza on Sunday when he flagged for a foul that resulted in a penalty against the city's football side in their league match against Barcelona. To great consternation in the stands and outrage in the local press the next day, Barcelona went on to score, and snatch an unlikely victory.

Real Zaragoza were leading Bobby Robson's side 3-2 at that point, and appeared to have the game in

their pocket, when Senior Guerrero ruled that Couto, of Barcelona, had been pushed in the Zaragoza penalty box. Couto had, of course, taken care to fall to the ground as if shot by a sniper in the stands.

The referee, who had missed the alleged foul, consulted the linesman — now surrounded by a horde of angry, swearing Zaragoza players — and as a result of their animated conversation, the right back, Aguado, was sent off and Barcelona drew level from the spot. A demoralised Zaragoza collapsed after that, as the Brazilian, Ronaldo, scored twice in Barcelona's eventual 5-3 win.

Tunku Varadarajan on a decision that prompted an extreme response from fiery Spanish supporters

Yet as television footage revealed, Aguado was innocent, another player having done the pushing. Couto had, in any case, overacted spectacularly. The penalty turned the match and Zaragoza's inhabitants went to bed that night muttering "ladrones", the Spanish equivalent of "we was robbed".

The next day, *El Periódico de Aragón*, the local paper, ran an inflammatory piece which suggested that Guerrero had always worn a Barcelona jersey to school as a boy. Cars bearing Barcelona licence plates were locked and pelted with stones and there were several incidents in which men with Catalan accents were roughed up in bars.

Football-related fury is often expressed in this way in Spain, and the soursness might slowly have dissolved into history had it not occurred to some Zaragoza fans to bombard the luckless linesman with death threats over the telephone. Guerrero, who works as a high

school porter when not wielding his flag, first appealed for calm on the radio and then, perhaps wisely, chose to duck out of sight for a while.

Although widely criticised in the Spanish press, the linesman did have one gallant defender. Juan Andujar Oliver, a former international referee writing in the newspaper *El Mundo*, said: "Couto should have stayed on his feet, instead of throwing himself on the turf. Zaragoza's players should not have surrounded the referee and linesman as they did. Can you imagine something like this happening in the English Premier League? Impossible!"

Keegan survives thrilling evening

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PEOPLE can say what they like, but Kevin Keegan's Newcastle United will attack, attack, attack and attack some more, with a bit of extra attacking thrown in, just in case there is not enough attacking going on for their manager's singular taste.

Keegan was breathless, sweating and his heart was racing 30 beats to the dozen again, on Monday night as Newcastle charged forward against Aston Villa at St James' Park. It ended 4-3, could have ended 10-8 or 7-9, but the crowd loved it, and so did Keegan.

"It was the kind of game where you contact your doctor the next morning for a check-up, even though you only had one three weeks ago," he said, suggesting that even his heart was struggling under the strain, "but if you can get a shock like the one Villa gave us and still win, then at least there's something to be positive about."

Dwight Yorke opened the scoring for Villa after three minutes. Les Ferdinand replied moments later and the pattern was set. By half-time, Newcastle led 3-1, Ferdinand (again) and Shearer scoring, with Villa reduced to ten men after Mark Draper was sent off. Yorke pulled it back to 3-2 after the break. Steve Howey made it 4-2, Yorke 4-3 and almost 4-4, a controversial offside decision denying him his fourth goal of the night.

Keegan admitted afterwards: "I said before the game Villa were my team of the year, but even I must admit I didn't realise just how good they were. In the second half, I looked as though they had 11 men and we had ten. Everyone says we've a bad defence and they tried to prove it."

The performance inspired Shearer to commend his partnership with Ferdinand to Glenn Hoddle, the England coach. "We can't do any more. We have both been playing reasonably well and both been scoring goals. That's all we can do at club level and now both of us have to hope that we get the call," he said.

Candidates queue at Wycombe

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been inundated with inquiries from prospective new managers since Alan Smith was dismissed on Monday (Russell Kempson writes). All have been told to apply in writing, but the Nationwide League club expects to take at least a month before making an appointment.

"I had four people ring up before Alan had barely left the stadium," John Reardon, the Wycombe secretary, said yesterday. "I've since had several more calls, but they've been told to go through the same process as everyone else."

Wycombe will advertise the job nationally over the weekend.

Smith, the former Crystal Palace manager, left with Wycombe bottom of the second division after failing to win any of their opening nine League matches. Though he retained a strong friendship with Ivor Beeks, the Wycombe chairman, the majority view of the nine-strong board went against him. "It was decided that we couldn't allow the situation to go on much longer," Reardon said, "but we don't want to be too hasty in finding a replacement."

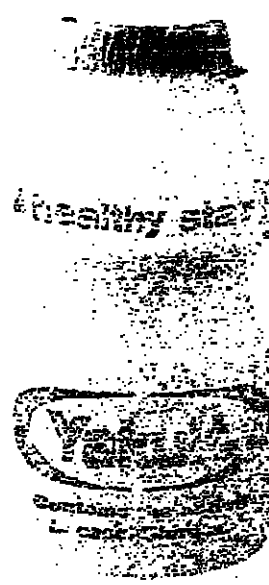
Smith, who will seek compensation for the eight months remaining on his two-year contract, claimed that, in recent weeks, his Mercedes car had been vandalised and that his family had been verbally abused by some of the club's supporters.

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Dettori offers rare glimpse of a perfect world

Saturday was, for Frankie Dettori, rather more than a good day at the office. Seven rides, seven winners. Ridden with style, belief, certainty, delicacy, sensitivity, raging ambition and blazing desire.

In the end, though, it was not a day about mere victory. I know victory is supposed to be what sport is all about, but Dettori's day was, somehow, a good deal bigger than this. It was about perfection. Dettori did not merely win. He reached the peak of sporting ability and maintained his balance there for a long and giddy afternoon.

You wondered briefly and dizzily about the perfectibility of human nature: perfectibility by work, by faith, by grace, by blood, by sweat and by tears. It is the goal of the alchemists: to turn base metal into gold, to lift humankind from earthly impurity to heavenly perfection. Have I gone too far? But then sport is never merely about sport.

On Saturday sport became a vehicle that took Dettori beyond conquest, beyond the sensation of being a Master of the Universe. It took him to a serene place beyond the

usual manifestations of victory. Heavenly perfection, indeed. It is something you see very rarely, but perhaps you see it in sport more often than you do elsewhere. In sport you can, to an extent, measure achievements and sometimes measurement brings a person so close to perfection as to make no difference. Perhaps that hunt for perfection is one of the things that makes us return to sport again and again, as participants and as watchers.

Few people touch perfection, even for a second, but the next best thing is getting close to it. I was there, we say, meaning, almost. I was Blessed. Ian Botham entered a kind of trance of perfection after his pair at Lord's in 1981. He put together what is perhaps the greatest sequence of Test-match performances and those who were there still boast about it.

The numbers are imprinted on a million minds. The 149 in the follow-on innings at Edgbaston and then the 118 at Old Trafford. Botham himself, English cricket and all of us who watch it have been paying the price ever since. But it was worth it, was it not?

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

Brian Lara entered a tunnel of perfection, when he scored 375 against England in Antigua, and remained there during the weeks that followed. He reached three figures seven times in eight innings, including a modest 501 not out. I saw him bat once during that period of perfection, when he was out for 28 at Lord's.

Perfection also struck Devon Malcolm from a clear sky. Like Dettori, he had a perfect afternoon. It is his tragedy that he will always be

remembered as a deeply unsatisfactory cricketer, which is a howling injustice. You could argue that his nine for 57 against South Africa at the Oval was one wicket short of perfection, but that is to quibble. Perfection is a matter of mind, not of figures. "You guys are history," Malcolm said. But he was wrong, it was Malcolm who became history.

Perfection is harder to measure in a non-statistical game such as football, but there can be no denying that Diego Maradona found it and held onto it for three matches during the 1986 World Cup. The Hand of God goal against England in the quarter-finals was, paradoxically, the trigger. For it was followed by that extraordinary slalom through the England defence culminating in the goal that the English people themselves have voted as the greatest ever. Belgians might disagree. Maradona did it again, against them, in the semi-finals: another slalom eclipsing even the magnificent first goal that he scored in the 2-0 win.

Maradona did not score in the final, against West Germany, but he was able to complete his period of perfection with as sublime a pass as has ever been struck. With six minutes to go, he found Burruchaga, who ran on to score the winner in a 3-2 victory.

The sports of performance — as opposed to those of confrontation — traditionally concentrate more on the search for perfection, rather than simple victory. Torvill and Dean certainly held themselves in the bubble of perfection during their great winter of content, a winter in which Bolero was briefly the national anthem. You cannot talk of perfection, however, without bringing in Nadia Comaneci.

In the 1976 Olympic Games, perfection was not so much her goal as her stock-in-trade. Her work on the asymmetric bars was, from beginning to end, flawless. She performed four routines and was awarded four perfect tens. On the beam she managed perfection another three times.

Another seven, Frankie and Nadia, brother and sister, in perfection. When will we see such perfection again? I have not a clue, only that sport will certainly bring it to us again some time and that we will know it when we see it. Sport's great alchemy is unending.

The Hand of God goal was the trigger

'It was not a day about mere victory'

SAILING: BAY OF BISCAY OFFERING RELATIVE CALM FOR CREWS FINDING THEIR SEA-LEGS

Outlook of skippers shrouded by concern

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

JUST three days into the race there are worrying signs that faulty rigging screws on board the BT Global Challenge yachts could cause serious problems for the fleet, as the 14 boats head across the Bay of Biscay towards Cape Finisterre.

Heath Insured II, under Adrian Donovan, and Time & Tide, under James Hatfield, have reported problems with rigging screws on their aft

and may well account for the two boats trailing the fleet. A failure in a lower shroud could lead to a rig collapse. The reports from Heath Insured and Time & Tide follow an identical problem on board 3Com during the Challenge qualifying race in July.

After three days at sea, the outright leader continues to be Simon Walker, the youngest skipper in the field, on Toshiba Wave Warrior, with Chris Tibbs, on Concert, a veteran of two Whitbread, just a mile behind. Walker and Tibbs, who have a ten-mile lead on the rest of the fleet, improved their positions by sailing between Ushant and mainland France.

On Monday they had benefited from a more southerly course than some of the others, and were thus able to pick up a faster wind angle when the breeze veered from west to north-west.

With the fleet now spread over 34 miles, the pack is led by Nuclear Electric, the defending champion, just ahead

of Group 4. Motorola and Ocean Rover. Roughly three miles adrift is the pairing of Pause To Remember and Save the Children, with Commercial Union and 3Com a further four miles back.

Merlyn Owen, on Global Teamwork, is continuing to catch up after enduring an hour-long penalty off the Needles for a "blatant" premature start and is now in eleventh place, 23 miles behind Toshiba Wave Warrior. The rear is being guarded by Courtaulds, with Heath Insured and Time & Tide.

After the southerly gale in the Solent, the crews are enjoying pleasant sailing in fresh northwesterly winds that look set to decline slowly. The traverse of Biscay is thus likely to be something of a procession, with many of the yachts in visual contact with each other.

Almost all the yachts were flying spinnakers and report-

ing dolphins in the sea around them. Seasickness is easing, but several crew on each yacht are still suffering. On Courtaulds, Boris Webber reported that, at one stage, 11 of his 13-strong crew were "down" and that three were still sick yesterday.

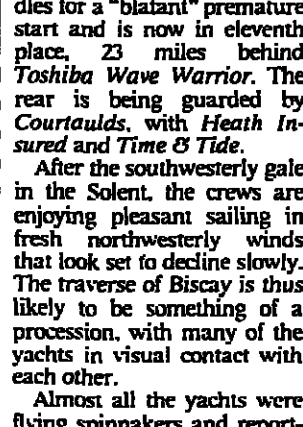
Meanwhile, the aftermath of the apparent breach of outside-assistance rules by 3Com, which received a fax on weather routing at least four hours after the start on Sunday, continued yesterday. David Tomkinson the skipper of 3Com, was reported still to

be anxious that his racing status might be in jeopardy and was waiting to receive reassurance on this point from Chay Blyth, the race director.

Other skippers remain understandably jumpy on the whole question of outside assistance. Save the Children reported to the race office yesterday overhearing a tanker, Gulf of Korea, talking to Motorola.

During the short conversation, the tanker gave a weather forecast without being asked for it. The radio operator on Save the Children reported this with the comment: "I would just like to record this with you and would expect Motorola to do the same very shortly."

Mark Lodge, the skipper of Motorola, confirmed the conversation shortly afterwards. "Because of technical difficulties," Lane Capstick was unable to transmit his story yesterday.



GLOBAL CHALLENGE LATEST POSITIONS
First leg Southampton to Rio de Janeiro 5,000 miles 7°W

- 12. Courtaulds Int
- 8. Seas
- 7. Pause to Remember
- 4. Group 4
- 2. Nuclear Electric
- 1. Toshiba Wave Warrior
- 11. Global Teamwork
- 10. Commercial Union
- 9. 3Com
- 6. Ocean Rover
- 5. Motorola
- Position as at 13.55GMT yesterday

Answers from page 45

IEIE
(9) A climbing screw-pine of the genus *Freyinetia*, especially *Freyinetia arborea*, whose prop-roots yield a fibre. The Hawaiian name for it. "All those birds that were utilized could readily be caught by a bait of flowers, excepting perhaps the Ou, and this bird probably not less easily on account of its fondness for the ripe rice."

MOKI
(c) Either of two New Zealand marine fishes. *Latridopsis ciliaris*, which is blue-grey and white, or the red moki, *Chironemus spectabilis*, which is reddish-brown, with dark brown bars on its sides. "I've left a moki and a feed of crayfish in the outside safe."

KANJI
(c) The corpus of borrowed and adapted Chinese ideographs which form the principal part of the Japanese writing system. Japanese, from the Chinese *kan* Chinese + *ji* a letter. "Plastic Kanji Cards" — All the 1,900 symbolic characters now used in Japanese newspapers and magazines, in Plastic Cards."

LO-FI
(a) Sound reproduction less good in quality than hi-fi, representing by abbrev. and analogy low frequency. "It was because of the cassette's lo-fi that Philips first attacked the bottom end of the market."

CRICKET

Sri Lankans extend winning run to 13

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Jayasuriya was caught low down by Cullinan at cover. Symcox finished with the figures of 10-1-20-3 as the Sri Lanka middle and lower order faltered and Dharmasena had to fashion a responsible 18 not out at No 8 to steer them to victory.

Apart from a cultured 51 from Cullinan, South Africa struggled on a pitch on which the ball was turning square. Wickets fell at regular intervals as their batsmen tried to force the pace and the Sri Lanka fielding, on a bumpy outfield, was impressive.

The largest partnership of the South Africa innings was 36 for the fifth wicket between Cullinan and Cronje, but just when it seemed that Cronje had found his batting touch, he produced an ugly drive-cum-sweep to be bowled by Muralitharan for 15. Cullinan was bowled by De Silva six overs later, effectively ending South Africa's hopes of reaching 200.

WORD-WATCHING

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qf6! threatening 2. Qe7 mate and 2. Qd7+! 1... gxf6 2. Qd7+ Kxh1 3. Qf6 mate.

GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS. PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY TO EU CUSTOMERS (REST OF THE WORLD ADD 11 PER ITEM OF THE ITEMS LISTED). SEND SAE FOR FURTHER DETAILS. STERLING/US DOLLAR

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS Books 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 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This Donkey is very much alive and kicking

There are compensations for having the politicians back from their summer break, which has the hallmark of most holidays: it seems indulgent long until it actually ends. The return of politics means the return of satire to television. *Have I Got News for You* is back on Friday, preceded, last night, by *Drop the Dead Donkey* (Channel 4).

This was an exquisite form from day one of series one, except for a spell when it became overly focused on Sally Smedley's sex life. The show is at its best when half a dozen storylines are on the go simultaneously. But perhaps its most remarkable aspect is that the original writers, Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin, and most of the original cast are intact, in spite of significant other projects for both writers and stars.

Last night the Globelink newsroom, a cauldron of inflated egos rapping against each other, set out

its stall from the start. Helen (Ingrid Lacey) had her car stolen at gunpoint. An old lady asked if this was for *The Bill* or *Thief Takers*. Told it was real life, she replied: "Never heard of it."

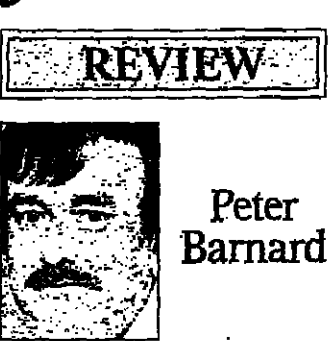
Meanwhile at the Globelink office, Sally (Victoria Wicks) is back from a nervous breakdown — she had been found on the roof singing hits from *Oklahoma!* — and Henry Davenport (David Swift) has been offered the job of presenting the BBC's flagship current affairs programme, which he had better accept "before Yentob gives it to Reeves and Mortimer".

Not that the job is real: it has been offered as an act of revenge by a BBC man with whose wife Davenport had a fling 25 years ago. The inclusion of such Whitehall farce plot lines is a strength of *Drop the Dead Donkey* that could be a weakness in the hands of less able writers: the programme welds straight comedy, satire and some-

thing resembling slapstick with a remarkable sureness of touch. The cast has no weaknesses. Robert Duncan as the plutinous Gus Hedges radiates insincerity and crass illogicality. Told of Helen's hold-up, he announces: "Helen's as tough as old boots, that's the upside of being a lesbian."

Last night offered two long and worthy documentaries, of which the more absorbing was *Witness School Prayers* (Channel 4). The demand for places in state religious schools has increased over the past few years, suggesting perhaps that parents see the value of Christian caring and Christian discipline even if they are not much inclined to attend church services.

But what happens if parents attending church is a precondition of their offspring attending the school? At Canon Slade Church of England school in Bolton, putative



pupils are admitted on a points system which crucially depends on the performance of their parents. If they want their child in the school, they must go to church (or help the church in some other way). In the run-up to the present school year, 170 families failed to reach the crucial 31 points, of which 54 appealed to a tribunal made up of governors and senior teachers. The film followed some

of the parents as they prepared for the appeals (12 were successful).

The system is clearly open to abuse and there are anomalies. Colin and Janet Pattenden are divorced. Colin is training to be a Methodist minister. Their son Gareth was half a point short of the required total. Because of the divorce, Gareth was attending a different church on alternate Sundays, thus affecting his points total at the Anglican school. Some parents cited work and various family problems as reasons for limited church attendance.

This was not very convincing and tended to obscure the real issue, which is whether future educational aspirations for a child should be affected by the behaviour of parents. The point is moot, but popular schools obviously need some way to limit input, otherwise they become overcrowded and ultimately unpopular. *Timeswatch: Stalin's Foreign*

Slaves (BBC2) was an account of the foreigners sent to labour camps in the old Soviet Union, mostly after the Soviets took East Europe as their main spoil of the Second World War. The excesses during the Gulag have been well documented but the scale of suffering inflicted on foreigners, including Americans and Britons, was not familiar to me.

John Noble, an American, survived to tell the tale. Thousands did not. Noble's father had a camera factory in Dresden and both were shipped to the Vorkuta camps in the Gulag after the Soviet "liberation". None was put on trial, many were not told what offences they had allegedly committed, though most were described as "spies".

Noble spent 15 years in the camps. After one of the century's happier events, the death of Stalin in 1953, camp inmates sensed a

chance to protest and went on strike. A Soviet general arrived and called a meeting of the prisoners, announcing they were free to say anything and would not be punished.

Noble recalls that at first nobody spoke, disbelieving the promise of immunity. Then a Russian, who had been a professor of history at Leningrad University, said: "You will give me ten more years for what I have to say." The general assured him that this would not happen. So the professor gave a dissertation on the history of slavery, concluding with the words: "...but never has there been a slavery as brutal and inhuman as the slavery we are in now."

The general was as good as his word: he did not add ten years to the professor's sentence. He had him shot.

● Lynne Truss will appear tomorrow

REVIEW

Peter Barnard

CHOICE

6.00am Open University: Caring for Data (7705192) 6.25 *The Search for the W and Z* (7704227) 6.50 *Culture and Society in Victorian Britain* (8342024) 7.15 *See Hear Breakfast News* (Teletext) (6502192) 7.30 *Alvin and the Chipmunks* (53734) 7.55 *Growing Up Wild* (n) (8308550) 8.20 *Christopher Cross* (n) (7978718) 8.25 *Money* (n) (2616919) 8.35 *Lassie* (n) (8450204) 9.00 *Let Paris* (2719821) 9.25 *See You, See Me — Healthy and Safe Living* (n) (8556885) 9.45 *Words and Pictures* (n) (180937) 10.00 *Playdays* (n) (48289)

10.30 Numberline (n) (228208) 10.45 *Cats' Eyes* 11.00 *Around Scotland* (n) (994956)

11.20 Music Makers (n) (858966) 11.40 *English Express* (n) (1147482) 12.00 *German Globo* (n) (7762378) 12.05pm *Seeing Through Science* (n) (1242458) 12.30 *Working Lunch* (83674) 1.00 *The Geography Programme* 1.20 *Thunderbirds in Hindi* (86132024) 1.25 *Zig Zag: Food and Farming* (n) (844888) 1.45 *Com Outside* (n) 2.00 *Christopher Crocodile* (n) (8177234) 2.05 *Money* (n) (81171005)

2.10 Conference Live (n) (862005) 3.55 *News and weather* (Teletext) (6502192) 4.00 *Today's Day* (n) (86) 4.30 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (n) (50) 5.00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (Teletext) (n) (857192) 5.40 *The Flying Vet* (855227)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation, Justice (718579)

6.45 Conference Talk (n) (856598)

7.30 Spans — the Blood That's in You. A play charting the disintegration of the friendship between a Serbian family and a Croatian family living side by side in Croatia during a time of civil war (n) (Teletext) (n) (79)

8.00 Declassified Weapons. Second World War veterans recall the role played by the P-51 Mustang in protecting American bombers from German attack (Teletext) (n) (9005)

8.30 The Fred Dibnah Story. Approaching 80, the Bolton steeplejack looks back with contentment over his life (Teletext) (n) (1840)

9.00 Changing Rooms. Designers Lee Wagstaff and Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen rise to the challenge presented by two brothers in Newcastle who swap homes (Teletext) (2550)

9.30 Great Railway Journeys. British explorer Benedict Allen searches for the source of the White Nile (Teletext) (n) (877579)

10.10 10 x 10. Directors' film debuts (792519)

10.30 Newsnight (Teletext) (417531)

11.15 The Larry Sanders Show (796173)

11.35 Seinfeld (Teletext) (n) (756192)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

6.00am GMTV (7845889) 9.25 *Supermarket Sweep* (Teletext) (n) (2716734) 9.55 *Regional News* (8503918) 10.00 *The Time ... the Place* (n) (68043) 10.30 *This Morning* (27813482)

12.20pm Regional News (7780918) 12.30 *News* (Teletext) and weather (3415280) 12.55 *Shortland Street* (n) (3405078) 1.25 *Coronation Street* (n) (Teletext) (6475955) 2.00 *Home and Away* (Teletext) (n) (2703137) 2.25 *Outlaw* (Teletext) (2701404) 2.50 *Vanessa* (Teletext) (n) (9136208)

3.20 News (Teletext) (7735208) 3.25 *Regional News* (5734579) 3.30 *Tots TV Classics* (n) (858966) 3.40 *The Parkies* (8308395) 3.50 *Astro Farm* (n) (Teletext) (n) (980482) 4.05 *The Twisted Tales of Felby the Cat* (n) (4941444) 4.15 *Animapalooza* (Teletext) (n) (8365314) 4.40 *Retrace* (Teletext) (8500802)

5.10 Wheel of Fortune. Nicky Campbell hosts the quiz where the lucky spinner could win a new car or 20,000 pounds (n) (8531024)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (862753)

6.00 Home and Away (n) (Teletext) (349647)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (862805)

7.00 Sportsworld (9181)

7.30 Coronation Street. Alf is getting increasingly suspicious of Audrey's plans for his 70th birthday, and it's all steam ahead for Rachel as she decides to get a job (Teletext) (55)



John Bower as Ross Poldark (8.00pm)

8.00 Poldark. The long-awaited sequel picks up the story of the Poldarks ten years on from where the popular series ended in the mid-1970s (Teletext) (n) (8227)

10.00 News (Teletext) and weather (53531)

10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (717573)

10.40 FILM: Homeboy (1988) starring Mickey Rourke, Christopher Walken and Debra Feuer. Based on an original story by boxing fanatic Rourke, it tells the grim story of an ageing punch-drunk, broke prizefighter who gets involved with a low-life hustler on promises to take him back to the big time. Directed by Michael Seresin (3035024)

12.50am Real Stories of the Highway Patrol. Real life drama on the roads with the police officers (8885951)

1.15 God's Gift (5773715)

2.20 cyber.cafe (8970514)

2.50 Dear Nick (5039862)

3.45 Nationwide Football League Extra (n) (2271116)

4.30 The Time ... the Place (n) (79203)

5.00 Three's a Crowd (n) (54406)

5.30 ITN Morning News (22551)

As HTV WEST except: 6.25pm *Wales Tonight* (590280) 7.00-7.30 *The Really Helpful Programme* (9181) 10.40 *Top Sport* (817444) 11.40 *Hunter* (281531)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: 12.55 *Coronation Street* (3430579) 1.25-1.55 *Outlaw* (9933108) 1.55 *Home and Away* (14073531) 2.25 *Vanessa* (27034024) 2.55-3.20 *A Country Practice* (4279622) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (8531024) 6.00 *Westcountry Live* (86192) 7.00-7.30 *Wheel of Fortune* (9181) 10.40 *Film: Allen* (3035324)

As HTV West except: 12.55 *Home and Away* (3430579) 1.25 *Outlaw* (9933108) 1.55 *A Country Practice* (4428444) 2.20 *Vanessa* (27035753) 2.50-3.20 *Our House* (9136208) 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (8531024) 6.25 *Central News and Weather* (590280) 7.00-7.30 *Wheel of Fortune* (9181) 10.40 *Central Sports Special* (984192) 11.45 *Max Monroe: Loose Cannon* (585550) 12.45am *Bushell on the Box* (75406) 2.15 *Dear Nick* (5751241) 3.10 *In Focus* (3136798) 3.55 *ITV Sport Classics* (97736203) 4.05 *Late & Loud* (9721241)

As HTV West except: 12.55 *Outlaw* (3430579) 1.25 *Outlaw* (9933108) 1.55 *A Country Practice* (4428444) 2.20 *Vanessa* (27035753) 2.50-3.20 *Serve You Right* (9136208) 5.10 *Home and Away* (8531024) 5.37-5.40 *Three Minutes — Freescreen* (86066)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (69) 6.30 *Ridgelines* (21) 7.00-7.30 *Wheel of Fortune* (9181) 10.30 *Meridian News and Weather* (717753) 10.45 *Chiller* (560668) 11.45 *The Pier* (599918) 12.15am *Music Box Profile* (5219241) 5.00 *Freescreen* (54406)

As HTV West except: 6.25 *Sharky and George* (856227) 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (70847) 9.00 *Bless This House* (70208) 9.30 *Yagellon* (275579) 12.00 *Little River Journeys* (50444) 12.30pm *Backdate* (11043) 1.00 *Slit Meilthrin* (73734) 1.30 *Film: Big Deal at Dodge City* (3168811) 3.15 *The Mornell Williams Show* (9071935) 4.00 *Fifteen to One* (34) 4.30 *Moving People* (19) 5.00 *Pump* (5298) 5.30 *Countdown* (89) 6.00 *Newyddion* (248579) 6.05 *Heno* (350753) 6.35 *Jacpot* (509192) 7.00 *Pobol y Cwm* (850685) 7.25 *Mond Fel Ddow* (818598) 8.00 *Gwyn a'i Fyd* (4173) 8.30 *Newyddion* (642463) 9.05 *Cutting Edge: The Test* (774444) 10.00 *Brookside* (182173) 10.35 *Scottie* (832550) 11.30 *Cyffwrdd* (83865) 12.00-1.00 *Homelife: Life on the Street* (76828) 1.30 *Film: Allen* (3035324)

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TENNIS 45

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SPORT

SAILING 46

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BT
Global
Challenge

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 1996

Dublin move a step closer

Wimbledon make play for Irish eyes

By PETER BALL AND JOHN GOODBODY

PLANS to move Wimbledon Football Club to Dublin have taken a significant step forward. An Irish consortium has agreed terms with Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon owner, to buy the club and outline documents for the sale could be drawn up within the next week.

The consortium, led by Paul McGuinness, the manager of the rock band, U2, and Owen O'Callaghan, a Dublin property developer, will complete the takeover once they have surveyed the books. Under the terms of the agreement, Hammam will stay with the club as managing director.

The consortium will take 74 per cent of the shares, paying approximately £20 million for the club, including an advance of around £10 million for the purchase of new players with a view to beginning next season in Dublin, presumably at Lansdowne Road, pending the building of a 40,000 all-seater stadium at Neilstown, Selhurst Park, where Wimbledon play at present, holds 26,309; for their last FA Cup Premiership home match, against Southampton, they drew a crowd of 8,572.

Although the purchase will give the Dublin consortium the controlling interest, the move to Dublin itself will be a much longer process, with the sanction of the Premier League, the Football Association and the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) necessary for it to go ahead. So far, only unofficial soundings have been made, with mixed responses.

"I've told Sam repeatedly that he will have to bring it to the full Premier League meeting for approval," Rick Parry, the League chief executive, said yesterday. "Until he does that, the Premier League cannot have a view on it."

The move would require a two-thirds majority for a change in League rules, which state that it is a league for English and Welsh clubs. Any change might also encourage the two big Scottish clubs, Rangers and Celtic, to apply to enter. The next meeting of the Premier League is next week, but the feasibility of Wimbledon's proposed move is not on the agenda.

Hammam yesterday denied reports of an imminent deal. "There is no truth in this story. I have nothing to say. I have answered these questions 20



Hammam: denial

times over the last few months."

However, Hammam has reportedly been canvassing support this season from individual clubs, with a mixed response, some of them being implacably opposed. Others are attracted by the promises of a regular 40,000 crowd in Dublin, where the interest in English football is keen.

"I've told Sam that his base has to be the wholehearted support of Irish football," Parry said. "That is even more unsure, with the Premier League getting mixed messages from the FAI, a situation not helped by the widespread

changes at the top of Irish football after the problems over the accounting for ticket sales during the World Cup.

A survey in the *Sunday Tribune* ten days ago revealed that 20 of the 22 National League clubs would support the move in return for a payout of £200,000 each. One suggestion last week was for Wimbledon to link up with Shamrock Rovers, making them members of the FAI, although whether that would resolve the FAI's difficulties is questionable.

The new FAI officials are believed to be less favourable than their predecessors, one of whom summed up their position as: "Officially we are totally opposed to it actually we'd welcome it." Reports from Dublin yesterday suggested that Bernard O'Byrne, the new chief executive of the FAI, intends to seek reassurances from the FA that it will support the FAI's position.

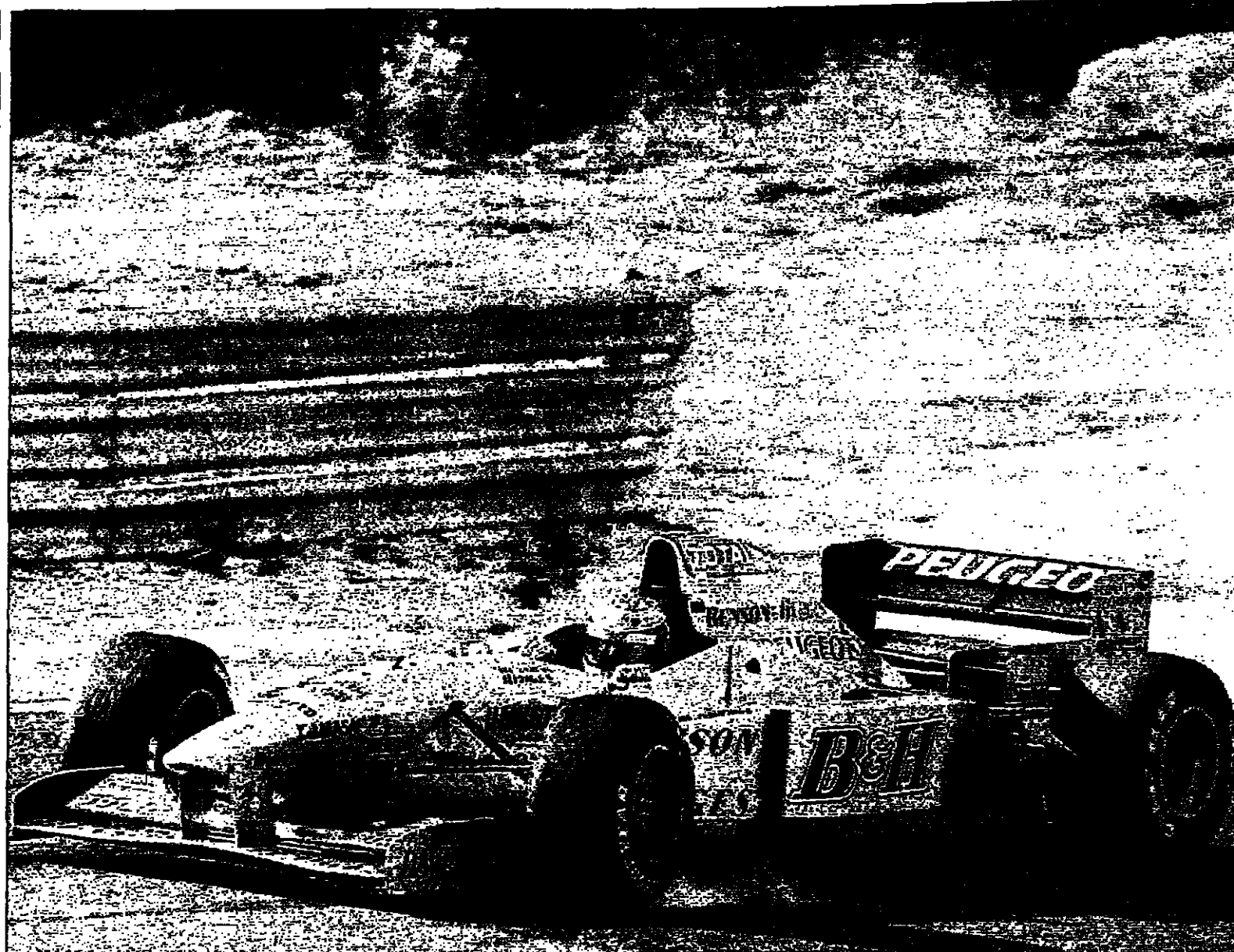
There are practical problems in any move, with the Bosman ruling on transfers between member states a key issue, and promotion and relegation a serious one. Under the Bosman ruling, if Wimbledon were based in another state they would be able to shoot a hole through the present English transfer regulations and sign players who were out of contract from other Premiership clubs without paying compensation.

Relegation would also pose a problem. Even if the Premier League agreed, the Football League, which has always insisted that clubs stay within — or at least within reach of — their communities, would be unlikely to welcome Wimbledon back if they had moved to Dublin. Whether Dublin fans would turn out in sufficient numbers to watch Nationwide Football League fare is open to doubt.

Having been advised that, under European law, Wimbledon are entitled to move where they like inside the European Community, the consortium is understood to be ready to resort to the courts if it is blocked, leading to suspicions that it might try to present the Premier League and the Football Association with a fait accompli. "That would be dangerous," Parry said.

A spokesman for Uefa, the game's European governing body, said that whether Wimbledon could play in an English league while they were based in Ireland was up to the individual associations. The problems with Uefa would occur when they qualified for any of the European competitions.

He said: "According to our regulations, Uefa cannot accept that. However something might change."



Family business: Ralf Schumacher, the 21-year-old brother of the Formula One world champion, Michael, roared into the limelight at Estoril, Portugal, yesterday as he tested, for the first time, the Jordan-Peugeot car that he will drive in the championship next year

United perplexed by Ravanelli's remarks

By DAVID MADDOCK

MANCHESTER United last night moved swiftly to dispel reports from Italy which suggested that they had made a £10 million bid for Fabrizio Ravanelli, the Middlesbrough forward.

"The 27-year-old Italy international signed for Middlesbrough during the summer for a club record fee of £7.5 million, but yesterday his future there seemed in doubt when he suggested that he had been the subject of an approach from the English champions.

Ravanelli was reported in the Italian press, and on an international media agency, to have spoken at length about his happiness at a bid from United. "I am very pleased, and the idea is exciting, because Manchester United are a prestigious club," he apparently said.

"It is a more ambitious club, and so now let us see what happens when I return to England, and when Middlesbrough come back from a tour of Thailand."

Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chairman, however, said last night that he was nonplussed by the suggestion, and said that there was no truth in the reports whatsoever.

"It is something that we have absolutely no knowledge of. There has been no bid, and I don't know where the reports

have come from," he said. "As far as I am concerned, there has been no bid, and there will not be one."

Ravanelli has set the FA Cup Premiership alight with ten goals already this season. Last night, however, Gianni Palladini, his agent, said that there was no truth in the reports, although there had been one bid for his client. "It is not true at all. Fabrizio is very happy at Middlesbrough and wants to concentrate on doing well with them. He said he was very honoured by the thought of Manchester United being interested, but he wants to stay at Middlesbrough. Neither myself or Fabrizio have been approached."

Palladini said that a bid of £13 million had been made by



Ravanelli: comments

Boycott averted as umpires back down

By KEITH BLACKMORE

A STRIKE by baseball umpires, called to protest against the treatment of a player who had spat at and insulted an official, was averted only hours before the Major League divisional play-offs were due to begin yesterday.

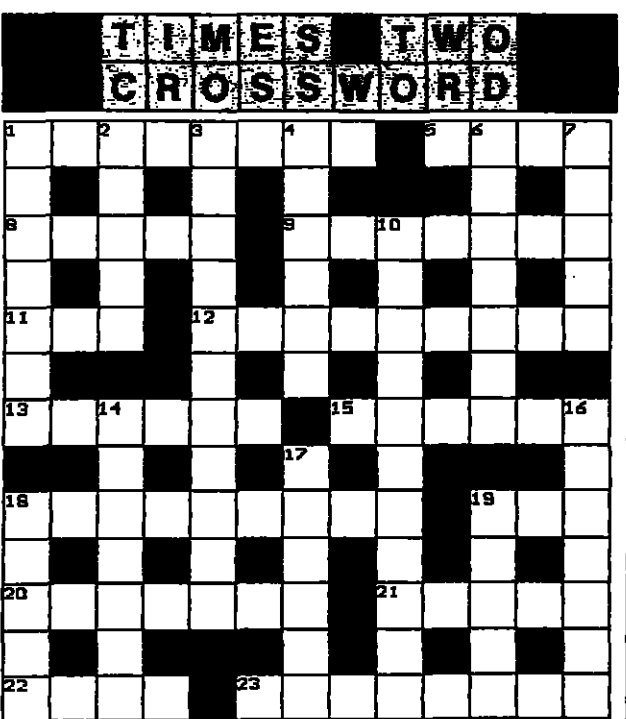
Roberto Alomar, a second baseman with the Baltimore Orioles, had been handed a five-game suspension for his behaviour when disputing a call with the umpire, John Hirschbeck, last Friday.

Alomar spat at Hirschbeck, then made a reference to the umpire becoming a bitter man after the death of his eight-year-old son three years ago. Hirschbeck entered the players' dressing-room to take the matter up with

Alomar and then had to be restrained.

Even Baltimore described Alomar's behaviour as indefensible but, by appealing, the player was able to defer the punishment, allowing him to take part in the Orioles' opening game against the Cleveland Indians last night. He made a public apology to Hirschbeck, and gave \$50,000 (about £33,000) to a charity for the treatment of the illness that killed Hirschbeck's son. But that did not appease the umpires' union.

They threatened not to umpire the play-offs unless Alomar's punishment was immediately enforced, but later agreed to work until a full hearing on Thursday.



No 902

ACROSS

- 1 Serve as proof (2,2,4)
- 2 Baby creature: part of leg (4)
- 3 Mistake (5)
- 4 Go down: originator (7)
- 5 Clairvoyant; doomed (3)
- 6 Simplicity: Blake's Songs of (9)
- 7 Restrained, not given prominence (3-3)
- 8 Certainly (6)
- 9 Highest Alpine peak (4,5)
- 10 Mongrel (3)
- 11 Item for discussion: fugue theme (7)
- 12 Suspended (2,3)
- 22 Wise man (4)

DOWN

- 1 Bubbling with delight (7)
- 2 Belated (5)
- 3 Fit for use (1,1)
- 4 Annoy: do wrong (6)
- 5 (Cooked egg veg) still firm (2,5)
- 6 Violence: body of men (5)
- 7 Asleep (11)
- 8 Pompous orator (7)
- 9 Lawrence —, Alexandria Quarter author (7)
- 10 King's house (6)
- 11 Israeli leader out of Egypt (5)
- 19 Memorial stone heap (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 901

ACROSS: 1 Up-to-date 5 Gilt 9 Kayak 10 Unicorn 11 Entered 12 Thyme 13 Nefarious 14 Apple 20 Through 22 Chateau 23 Bacon 24 Lake 25 Skinkhead
DOWN: 1 Upkeep 2 Try it on 3 Dakar 4 Thunderstruck 6 Irony 7 Tunnel 8 Bistro 14 Filter 15 Scuttle 16 Parcel 17 Phoned 19 Plank 21 Robin

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 897

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 1 Round up 5 Hippo 8 Fling 9 Well-set 10 Sly 11 Stevedore 12 Lactic 14 Milton 17 Brilliant 18 Gag 19 Smiling 20 Valve 21 Scene 22 Draught
DOWN: 1 Refusal 2 Unity 3 Dog 4 Powder 5 Hellenist 6 Past out 7 Outré 11 Still life 13 Cuisine 15 Neglect 16 Ragged 17 Basis 18 Gulag 20 Via

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is P B Herbert, Brightlingsea, Essex.
2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is F Westmoreland, Thurso, Caithness.
All flights subject to availability.

Wasps serve notice on Neath

David Hands laments the uncertainty that has cast doubt on a new competition

The future of the inaugural rugby union Anglo-Welsh club tournament has been thrown further into doubt by the postponement of yet another game tonight and the huge disparity in the quality of teams that clubs are fielding in the competition.

Neath, the 1996 Welsh League champions, were able to give Wasps only 48 hours' notice of withdrawal from the fixture at Sudbury this evening and the London club replied with suggestions that compensation would be sought. Yet, clearly, club rugby cannot afford this kind of financial dispute, on top of all its other worries, and the situation only serves to highlight the lack of clarity with which the professional era has begun and for which the disputes between leading clubs and their respective unions are responsible.

Cardiff, for reasons including illness, injury and representative calls, postponed the game last month with Harlequins and the meeting tonight with Sale. Leicester have rescheduled their game with Bridgend for next Tuesday, but there are few enough

dates left in an overcrowded calendar on which postponed games can be played without reducing the tournament to a development competition, which some sides seem inclined to do anyway.

"We had committed ourselves to substantial expense that goes with putting on a big match back at our old Sudbury ground," John Gasson, the Wasps spokesman, said yesterday.

It has been suggested that Wasps will seek up to £15,000 in compensation for a match that, had it been scheduled for the London club's new home at Loftus Road, would have been even more expensive to stage.

"The players are the major sufferers," Gasson added. "Some of those chosen are on match fees only and would be relying on the income. They would also want the chance to play in a first-class match to make progress in the squad. Other sufferers are sponsors and the Wasps fans who were

rounding the Heineken Cup, for which the clubs have yet to receive assurances over funding.

Meanwhile, spectators are at a loss to know what they will be getting for their money: Harlequins, for example, field a XV against Swansea at St Helen's tonight of whom only one, Robbie Paul, appeared in the league win over Northampton last Saturday. However, Swansea, in what is a meeting of the leaders of their respective national leagues, offer a decently representative team — having no league match on Saturday. It includes Paul Moriarty, 32 and making his first senior appearance since rejoining Swansea from Halifax Blue Sox.

One dispute appears to be reaching its conclusion, though compensation is involved, too, over Frano Botica's move from Orrell to Llanelli. The two clubs have agreed a package over the former New Zealand stand-off half which involves a game at Orrell, between them later in the season.

Looking forward to a return to a familiar ground."

Neath, like Cardiff four weeks ago, are unable to field a competent front row, so aspects of safety come into their withdrawal. Three forwards, John Davies, Barry Williams (both in the front row) and Steve Williams are preparing for the Wales international with Italy on Saturday and three other props are unavailable. "It's our intention to rearrange the game but it's not going to be easy, knowing Wasps' commitments as well as our own," a Neath spokesman said.

The clubs are inclined to blame the proliferation of international matches but domestic calendars are equally chaotic, which makes it even more essential that talks taking place between the four home unions and France make progress, so that some coherence can be established. The situation has been exacerbated by the uncertainty sur-

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Is it not simpler to leap the stream than to pause on each stepping stone?"

E. CANTONA

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